

lang="en">

Different World Business Symbol - WN

Chapter 01-12

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Chapter 1: Transfer

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第1話 転移
Chapter 1 – Transfer

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「Where in the world am I?」(Haruto)

The young boy looked at his surroundings. All around him, there are nothing but trees. It is no surprise as this area is in the middle of a mountain. However, the young boy had no memories of having entered the mountains.

「Seriously, where am I.....」(Haruto)

There is no one around to answer him.

This boy's name is Asuma Haruto (遊馬陽斗). For complicated reasons, tomorrow, he was supposed to be living by himself. Being a neat freak, his hobby if making soap. He is an ultra-ordinary high school student. By the way, he is 15 years old.

「First, I should confirm the situation. Becuase I would be living alone tomorrow, I went to the shopping mall to buy the things I would need. After finishing my shopping, I was exiting the store..... and then now I'm here in the middle of the mountains. Damn it, I don't get it.」(Haruto)

Haruto (ハルト) held his head in his hand. Thinking perhaps it was a dream, he pinched his cheek. The pain he felt conveyed to him that this was his reality.

「For now, I should descend down the mountain and check the area. Who knows, there might be other people.」(Haruto)

Haruto began his descent down the mountain.

After making his way down the mountain, he had a clearer picture of his surroundings. In front of his eyes is a large wall. It appears to be a castle wall.
「Thank goodness. There is civilization, perhaps?」(Haruto)
Before Haruto, there is something he has never seen. It is a dragon. A dragon has appeared. To be more accurate it is a dragon pulling a cart.
「Is it possible that I have traveled to another world?」(Haruto)
Haruto concluded this is what had happened to him.



「What is your reason for entering the country?」(immigration)
「Eh, well. Sightseeing.」(Haruto)
「I see, sightseeing, is it? Your name?」(immigration)
「Asu.....it's Haruto・Asuma.」(Haruto)

Haruto is being inspected by immigration. He thought that compared to the middle of the mountains being behind a castle wall should be safer.
「Now then, here is your entry permit. I advise you not to lose it as this cannot be reissued. If you happen to stay past 3 months, 100,000 Doraria (ドラリア) will be collected from you as a tax. So, please be careful.」(immigration)

Haruto received a plate with writing on it that looked similar to wiggly earthworms. While he can speak with them, he is unable to understand their written words. Haruto stares at the plate.

After passing through the gate, what he saw was a completely different world. The street was lined with stalls and men & women were walking around wearing different types of garments.

「Now that I have entered the country, next I need money.」(Haruto)
He sets out to sell the items that he had previously bought from the shopping mall.



「Ahh, did I sell them for too much?」(Haruto)

After selling off the frying pan & tableware, and notebooks; he received 3 gold coins, 9 silver coins, 9 big coppers and 8 small coppers. While it is certainly a lot

of money if he keeps spending it, the amount will quickly disappear.

「I don't know the value of this world's currency. Next, I should go gather information..... umm, where exactly am I?」 (Haruto)

He surveys the neighborhood, it is an unfamiliar back street..... well, of course, it was unfamiliar. This place wouldn't be popular as it looks like a kitchen littered with garbage.

「This place is dirty. I should hurry out of here. It is best not to get involved in any trouble.」 (Haruto)

Keeping his wallet in mind, Haruto followed the left-hand rule and advance while moving to his left.

「Onii-san, that way leads to the slums. Did you want to get robbed?」 (???)
He turned to look in the direction in which the voice came from. There stood a dirty looking girl with red hair and a lovely face.

「Thank you for telling me, but that isn't enough for a tip.」 (Haruto)

「I haven't even said anything yet. I'm Lora・Summers (ロア・サマラス). What is your name, onii-san? You are wearing clothes I have never seen; where are you from?」 (Lora)

The girl introduced herself as Lora. Now that she has introduced herself, Haruto thought it was impolite not to tell her his name.

「My name is, Haruto・Asuma. I came from the far east.」 (Haruto)

Haruto replied by giving a generic answer as for his origin.

「From the far east....., do you mean past the large mountain, great forest, and the vast desert? That sure is very far away.」 (Lora)

Having rushed to give a reply, Haruto had exaggerated. As the conversation could get confusing, he changes the topic.

「Anyhow, where can I find an inn; do you mind being my guide?」 (Haruto)

「I'm alright with that, but not for free.....」 (Lora)

Lora demands a tip. Haruto frowns, but as it was necessary, he handed over 4 coins.

「Fufu, thank you very much. Now, Haruto-san, what are you looking for?」 (Lora)

「If possible, I'm looking for somewhere that is clean, but affordable. A cheap

place would be nice.」(Haruto)

Haruto has a compulsion for cleanliness. At the very least, he doesn't want to stay at a place where there are cockroaches and fleas.

「Understood. Then will 『Sylph's Pavillion (シルフー亭)』do. That place charges about 2,000 Doraria a night.」(Lora)

Lora puts the 4 copper coins she received into her pocket and then began to walk.

「Excuse me, but will you tell me about the currency here, for reminder's sake?」(Haruto)

Haruto enquired about the term 『Doraria』.

「Alright, but it will cost you 1 copper.」(Lora)

Lora smiled and stuck out her hand. Haruto made a displeased expression as he handed over 1 copper coin.



This city's name is 『Clarice (クラリス)』; it one of the city-states that make up the 『city-state union』. To the east of Clarice is a big mountain range and extending from there is a large forest. Pass the large forest is a vast desert. The eastern countries are located passed that desert. To the north of there lays the northern 『kingdom』. While the eastern country is poor, they trade with the northern kingdom. The city-state, Clarice, uses 5 types of minted coins. In the city-state union, the currency issued is known as 『Doraria』: a gold coin is worth 100,000 Doraria; a silver coin is worth 10,000 Doraria; a big copper coin is worth 1,000 Doraria; a copper coin is worth 100 Doraria; and a penny coin (錢貨) is worth 1 Doraria. Nowadays, there also exist silver notes and money tickets.

「Truly, a wasteful expense.」(Haruto)

Haruto hands Lora his last copper coin.

「Well, that is Haruto-san own fault for being ignorant.」(Lora)

Lora brazenly says this.

「Despite being a beggar, you sure do know the value of a gold coin and the geography of this land.」(Haruto)

「Eh, well, it isn't like I started out as a beggar.」(Lora)

She slightly showed a sad expression. Haruto reflected on his insensitive remark.

As he apologizes, Lora points to a building with a red roof.

「Over there is Sylph's pavilion. Now then, I will be excusing myself.」(Lora)

Lora showed her gratitude by slightly bowing.

「Ah, you're welcome.」(Haruto)

「Not at all, it was very profitable for me. If you ever need anything, you can find me in back street where we first met as that place is my spot.」(Lora)

After saying this, Lora left.

「I have a good feeling about that child.」(Haruto)

While muttering this, Haruto made his way to Sylph's pavilion.



As he approached Sylph's pavilion, Haruto realized how big it was. It's outer appearance it quite stylish. While being a bit tense, he went inside. The interior was also quite stylish and from the floor to the ceiling, it wasn't dirty. Overall, it gave him a good impression.

「Welcome, honored guest. How many nights will you be staying?」(innkeeper)

He turned his head to where the voice came from. Over there was a woman with a large physique. "She must be the owner", he thought.

「Hello, how much would it cost to stay for one week?」(Haruto)

For the time being, before he can investigate this world, Haruto needed a place to stay. As 3 days wouldn't be enough time to investigate and since one month would be financial scary, Haruto decided that 1 week was the best choice.

「1 week, hmm, that would cost 10,000 Doraria.」(innkeeper)

10,000 Doraria, in other words, 1 silver coin. Haruto hands over a silver coin.

「I have received you 10,000 Doraria. Can you please write your name on this plate?」(innkeeper)

As he was asked to write his name, Haruto recalled that he couldn't write this world's characters.

「Excuse me, I have come from a distant land..... and I can't write this country's written characters.」(Haruto)

With an apologetic expression on his face, he told this to the innkeeper.

「Ah, sorry. That is right, certainly, I have never seen you around here. As an apology, should I show you how to write your name?」(innkeeper)

Haruto tells her his name. The innkeeper skillfully writes unfamiliar characters on the plate. He sees the characters that have been written and memorized it. "This must be my name", he thought.

「Here is your key. Your room is the first one on the second floor, do make yourself comfortable. If you have any questions feel free to come and ask me.」
(innkeeper)

Haruto thanked the innkeeper and then headed to his room. The room contained a simple bed, desk & chair, and dresser. Upon seeing the bed, Haruto suddenly felt sleepy. Now that he thought about, today he had done a lot of walking. And just like that, Haruto collapsed onto the bed.

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Please think of 1 Doraria as being equal to 1 Yen. (T/N: Author's note)

- [ToC](#) -

Chapter 2: Library

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第2話 図書館へ
Chapter 2 – Library

*MTL: uniquegasuki
Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)*

「Where am I again?」(Haruto)

Haruto opened his eyes and then looked at his surrounds. He was supposed to be in his room with packed cardboard boxes scattered around. Haruto questioned himself as to why he is here..... and then he recalled what had happened. Yesterday, he had been transported to another world.

「When it is..... umm, what time is it?」(Haruto)

Haruto went to open the window and confirm the time of day. The sun was shining above him. He had completely overslept.

「Well, there is no need to worry about being late for school.」(Haruto)

His expression became serious. Wanting to wash his face, Haruto exited the door and went downstairs. Upon descending the stairs, he saw the innkeeper.

「Good morning, is there a water well where I can wash my face at?」(Haruto)

When he greeted the innkeeper, she responded by smiling wryly.

「Eh, hello. The water well is in the backyard.」(innkeeper)

Haruto expressed his gratitude and then head for the backyard.



Haruto arrived in the backyard. There he saw a little girl airing out bed sheets. Watching the little girl hopping around the clothe line while she aired out the sheets was dangerously fascinating. He regained his barrings and then called out

to her.

「Need any help?」(Haruto)

The little girl turned towards Haruto and then spoke.

「Uhh, this is Maria's job. Honored guests are not allowed to help.」(Maria)

Haruto felt admiration towards the levelheaded yet young child. The little girl is probably the innkeeper's child, if so, this is a peaceful place.

While Haruto was daydreaming, Maria finished airing out the sheets. Being intrigued by Haruto, she looked up at him.

「Onii-chan, you have bed-hair, did you just wake up?」(Maria)

Upon Haruto's reply, Maria giggled.

「Ahahahaha, sleepyhead, onii-chan.」(Maria)

Haruto responded by smiling wryly. It is true that he had overslept. Chances are, Maria's nickname for Haruto will be, "sleepyhead onii-chan".

He ignores Maria, who is repeatedly calling him "sleepyhead onii-chan", and goes over to wash his face at the water well. Fortunately, the water well had a fixed pulley. Now then, all Haruto has to do is use the pulley & rope..... to reel up the bucket? However, there was no such thing. "The device", had no handle attached to it? Instead, there is a hollowed out crevice with a gem inserted in it. "How is this used?", he thought. Unsure of what to do, Haruto decided to ask Maria about it?

「Hey, Maria. Do you know how to use this? I would like you to teach me how to use it.」(Haruto)

Maria proudly puffed up her chest.

「This here is a winding-up magic tool. It is very expensive.」(Maria)

Upon hearing that it was a magic tool, Haruto was astonished. Having been transported to another world, it wasn't so strange for him to come across magic and sorcery.

As Maria explained to him once more about the magic tool, she grinned and laughed.

「Eh, sleepyhead onii-chan does know? Hmm, should I teach you about it? Oh yeah! Today, Maria will be going to the library to study. I will teach you if you tag along.」(Maria)

Haruto willingly gives his consent. Originally, he had planned to go gather information. Besides, if Haruto studies with Maria, he could learn this world's written characters.

「Ah, thank you. Then, I will teach you. Place your hand on the magic stone and then pray for it to turn. Every time you want it to turn, imagine it turning. If you want it to turn faster, imagine it quickly turning.」(Maria)

Chances are, a magic stone is different from a normal gem. While half doubting it, he placed his hand on the magic stone and tried praying. And then, a blue light shone from the stone as the winding-up machine slowly began to turn. Shortly after, Haruto washed his face with the water that he had obtained. Although, washing his face without soap left him feeling unsatisfied. Haruto decided that today he will go buy soap.



After having washed his face and becoming wide awake, Haruto noticed that he was hungry. He hasn't eaten since yesterday. Realizing it was too late for breakfast... he decided to go for lunch.

「Would you happen to know any inexpensive place that serves good food?」(Haruto)

Haruto asked Maria to recommend him a restaurant to eat at. In truth, he didn't expect too much from the little girl. If he needed to, Haruto could always ask Lora but that would cost him a referral fee.

「A place to eat, there is one across the street. Oto-san works there. It is famous for being cheap and delicious.」(Maria)

It seems that the guests who stay at the inn that the wife manages will go to eat at the restaurant run by the husband. "That is quite the coordination they have going on", Haruto thought.

While Haruto thanked Maria for the recommendation, he suggested that they may as well go to the restaurant together. Thinking that he should first ask Maria's father for permission before they go to the library together, Haruto and Maria decided to go to the restaurant together as it was the most convenient choice.



When he tried to exit the inn along with Maria, the innkeeper called out to them.

「Ah, Maria. Have you finished airing out the laundry? You're... Asuma-san, correct? Why are you together with Maria?」(innkeeper)

As best as he could, Haruto displayed a properly smile.

「I met her in the backyard and we then happened to get along. Currently, we are going to the restaurant together.」(Haruto)

Upon his response, the innkeeper showed a surprised expression.

「You mean with the extremely shy Maria..... ah, if you are going to 『Undine』, show them the key and you will get a discount.」(innkeeper)

Now that is a good deal. Haruto felt grateful to Lora for introducing him to this inn.

Anyhow, the restaurant is called Undine. The inn was named after the wind spirit and the restaurant was named after the water spirit. "Their naming sense is good", Haruto thought.

「Thank you very much. Well, I will be leaving now. Let us go, Maria.」(Haruto)

「Um, let's go, sleepyhead onii-chan.」(Maria)

The innkeeper raised her eyebrows when she heard that.

「Maria! No matter how kind Asuma-san may be, it is impolite to call him that.」(innkeeper)

「.....alright.」(Maria)

Maria was downhearted. The innkeeper's lecture continued.

「Okay then, don't trouble Asuma-san.」(innkeeper)

「Um, I know. Let's go onii-chan.」(Maria)

Maria gives a lively reply. Haruto grasps Maria's hand and then they left for the restaurant.



The restaurant is fairly spacious and the interior is similar to the inn. There are many customers and the store seems to be thriving. Together, Haruto and Maria went to wait at the counter. A short while later, a man with evil looking eyes appeared.

「Oh, if it isn't Maria. And, you are.....」(???)

Haruto took out the key and then began to speak.

「I'm a guest staying at the inn. I invited Maria along with me to have lunch. This is a nice place you have here.」(Haruto)

The man showed an expression that conveyed he understood.

「Oh, you are one of Hannah's (ハンナ) guest. Sorry about that, my name is Marceau (マルソー). I am this shop's manager and Maria's father.」(Marceau)

Although Marceau's has a sweet smile, his evil looking eyes are frightening. It has been identified that the innkeeper's name is Hannah. Haruto reminded himself not to forget it.

「So, what will it be? I recommend the grilled skewers.」(Marceau)

While saying this, Marceau showed Haruto the menu and pointed out the grilled skewer. For a brief moment, Haruto could only see the written word, 『grilled skewer』, before it went back to being the wiggle worm like writing. Haruto then began to doubt his proficiency with this world's language.

「Hello, okyaku-san! Okyaku-san!」(Marceau)

(“okyaku” more or less means “customer” in Japanese)

Marceau called out to Haruto who was deep in thought. He had completely zoned out. Maria who was sitting beside Haruto, she looks up at him with a worried expression.

「Ah, excuse me, I was lost in thought. I will have the grilled skewer, please.」(Haruto)

「Maria will have the same thing as onii-chan!!」(Maria)

「Alright, coming right up.」(Marceau)

A little while later, Marceau returned with the grilled skewers. There are onions, red bell peppers and pork meat on the skewer.

「Here, please be careful as it is hot.」(Marceau)

And just like that, Haruto bites into the meat on the skewer. The seasoned meat is delicious, he thought as the lemon like acidic flavor spreads in his mouth. Haruto can see why it was recommended as it really is delicious.

「By the way, okyaku-san, where are you from? I've never seen your face before around here.」(Marceau)

Haruto told Marceau that he came from a distant land, the same answer he gave

to the innkeeper.

「Umm, are you something like a traveler? About the food here, how would you rank it among the cuisine you have tasted along your journey?」(Haruto)

Haruto was worried about how he would response. He couldn't flatter them by saying, 「It was the best thing I ever tasted.」. However, if he had said it was mediocre, they might have been offended. Haruto carefully selected his words.

「Well, I don't know without tasting the other dishes, but this skewer would enter my top 10.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto's response, Marceau showed a fiendish smile.

「No need to be shy, I will give you another one as a freebie.」(Marceau)

This person seems to be the type that is weak to flattery. Now that Marceau is in a good mood, it is the perfect time to ask permission for the matter about the library.

「Eh? is it really alright, okyaku-san, are you not busy sightseeing?」(Marceau)

Marceau seems curious. Well, it is only natural as it does sound suspicious.

「A promise is promise. Anyhow, I may as well check out this country's library.」(Haruto)

In truth, Maria will be the one teaching Haruto about this world's written characters.

「I see. Maria, you had better behave and not cause our dear guest trouble.」(Marceau)

「Um,」(Maria)

With a mouthful of meat and grease on her face, she cutely nods. Haruto could see Maria's resemblance to Hannah.



The meal costed 4 copper coins..... Haruto paid with one big copper and then he received 6 copper coins in change. Haruto and Maria exited the restaurant and headed to the library.

「Hey, Maria, what sort of books do you read at the library?」(Haruto)

Being curious about what a 9 maybe 10-year-old child would study at the library, Haruto tried asking her.

「Various types of arithmetic books. You see, Maria will succeed otou-san and okaa-san and then expand the business.」(Maria)

(“otou” means “father”, “okaa” means “mother” in Japanese)

To be this young and yet is already planning her future, she truly is a good child. The past Haruto could learn a thing or two from her.

「Hey, Maria. Would you be willing to teach me the written characters? I will be eternally grateful if you do.」(Haruto)

「Eh, Maria is will be busy with her studies.」(Maria)

「Please, Maria-sensei.」(Haruto)

Haruto earnestly asked Maria. A 15-year-old boy is begging a little girl to be his teacher. This was quite a pathetic scene to view.

「It can't be helped. Sensei is very strict!!」(Maria)

She seems to be pleased with being called 『sensei』. Similar to Marceau, Maria is also weak to flattery.

Meanwhile, they arrived at the library. The place is considerably large. It is probably 3 times bigger than the public library in his hometown.

「This is the city-state union's largest library.」(Maria)

Maria puffs up her chest. He recalls the explanation Lora had given him about the city-state union's most prominent town, Clarice. In other words, there will be a collection of expensive books that reflects this city's assets.

Inside the library, there was another door and it was being guarded by two soldiers. There was a woman at the reception desk nearby. A person cannot enter the library without going through the reception desk as the security was tight. Haruto goes over to talk to the receptionist.

「Excuse me, I would like to enter the library.」(Haruto)

「Then please, take out your citizen registration card or your entry permit.」(receptionist)

Haruto took out his entry permit & Maria took out her registration card, and they handed it over to the receptionist. The identification plates were returned to them shortly after the woman had confirmed them.

「Now then, Haruto-sama and Maria. I have confirmed it. Please, take your time.」(receptionist)

The woman said this without showing any emotion.



「This place is very spacious.」(Haruto)

Having entered the building, it is obvious now how big the library is. There are rows of books as far as the eye could see because this place is naturally a library.

「Well, first off I will teach you the written character with a picture book.」(Maria)

Maria bought over a picture book. As Haruto thought, he only sees the written characters as nothing more than wriggly earthworms.

「So, what is the title?」(Haruto)

「The Hero Altus' (アトラス) Adventure.」(Maria)

Maria points to the book's front cover. Once again, Haruto is overcome with a mysterious sensation. The written title, 『The Hero Altus' Adventure』, that he didn't know, he briefly saw it and then lost sight of it.

「What's wrong, onii-chan?」(Maria)

Maria looked over to Haruto with a worried expression. He had blanked out once again.

「It's nothing. Can You read it to me?」(Haruto)

「Umm, okay. You can ask me about the parts you don't understand. Long, long ago..... and they lived happily ever after. Onii-chan, I've finished reading. Onii-chan?」(Maria)

「Ah, excuse me, will you lend me that book? I want to try and review.」(Haruto)

Haruto received the book. Normally it is impossible to understand a language's grammar and vocabulary by reading a book once. However, Haruto was able to understand it by having someone read it to him just once. Thinking this was impossible, he looked over the picture book to be sure. The text that he previously couldn't see, he was able to clearly understand how the sentences were constructed.

(What is the meaning of this..... when did I become such a genius? But, if I calmly think about it, it is strange that I am able to communicate with another world's language in Japanese. Is it possible that am I unconsciously speaking in this country's language? But for that to happen..... oh yeah, I was transported to another world. If that were the case, something like this is not improbable. I will try to consciously speak to Maria in Japanese. Let us see if my hypothesis is correct.)

Haruto closed the picture book and then turned around. He strongly thinks of himself talking in Japanese.

『*Maria, how old are you?*』 (Haruto)

Haruto heart begins to rapidly beat. Was he able to do it.....

「Onii-chan, what did you just say?」 (Maria)

She showed a puzzled expression. Haruto's hypothesis seems to have been correct.

『*Sorry, I spoke to you in the language of my hometown.*』 (Haruto)

「Eh? I'm asking, what are you saying?」 (Maria)

She gave the same response and it caused Haruto to become flustered.

(Oh no..... I don't know how to toggle it on & off. What to do..... should I consciously think to communicate with Maria?)

「Sorry, I spoke to you in the language of my hometown.」 (Haruto)

「Oh, onii-chan was being clumsy. Do be more careful.」 (Maria)

He felt relieved as this time he got through to her. Although he doesn't know how it works, Haruto plans to make use of it. Haruto tries to use its function to memorize the written characters.

「Maria, will you help me out a little longer?」 (Haruto)

Maria continued to teach Haruto the written characters. Although it was called teaching, Maria was merely reading aloud as Haruto simply searched for the written characters. After spending 3 hours studying, Haruto was able to read simple sentences.

「Wow, onii-chan is amazing!」 (Maria)

Maria shows a surprised expression on her face. A guy who moments ago couldn't read a word became able to read the same sentence after having it read aloud.

「That is because Maria is skillful at teaching. Thank you. I will go read the dictionary.」 (Haruto)

Saying so, he separated from Maria and went to fetch a dictionary. Now that he is able to read simple sentences, it is time for him to do some self-studying. When Haruto opened the dictionary, he couldn't understand most of the vocabulary. But, he doesn't give up and moves to read the annotation beside the words. After understanding the meaning, he memorized the information. The

dictionary that was once cloaked in darkness gradually began to clear up.

「Onii-chan, it is time to leave.」 (Maria)

Haruto responses to her and finishes up reading the dictionary. Before they know it, it was already time for the library to close.

「Sorry, I was in a daze. Well, shall we return?」 (Haruto)

Haruto and Maria exited the library. Having learned to comprehend the written writing, how Haruto saw the place changed because now he was able to read the signboards around town.

「Onii-chan, will you buy me that!」 (Maria)

The thing that Maria pointed to, on the signboard, it reads 『dough-sweets (ドルフィツ)』. Dough-sweets is a city-state union candy, made from wheat flour・sugar・eggs, that has been coated with dough and rolled into a ball before being placed on a skewer and then cooked. Haruto acknowledges it as he recalled having promised her a reward.

「Excuse me, 2 dough-sweets, please.」 (Haruto)

「Alright, that will be 600 Doraria.」 (shopkeeper)

Haruto paid exactly 600 Doraria for the dough-sweet. Maria showed a delighted smile when she held the dough-sweets in her hand.

「Thank you, onii-chan.」 (Maria)

After seeing Maria eating her dough-sweet, Haruto tried his dough-sweet. He found the crispy dough coating to be delicious. In high spirits, Haruto and Maria both return to Sylph's pavilion.

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Remaining Balance: 388,000

— [ToC](#) —

Chapter 3: Shopping

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第3話 買い物
Chapter 3 – Shopping

*MTL: uniquegasuki
Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)*

The following morning, Haruto was awoken by the morning sunlight. He opens the window and then checked outside.

「It seems I've woken up early today.」(Haruto)

He felt relieved that he didn't oversleep. Afterward, Haruto washed his face at the water well and then had breakfast at Undine. While he ate his sandwich, which he had bought for 500 Doraria, Haruto thought about what he was going to do today.

(For the time being, I should definitely buy a change of clothes as I'm still wearing the same underwear from yesterday. Not to mention, the hard coins don't quite fit in a Japanese wallet. It is too dangerous for me to simply carry money in my bare pockets. Oh, I must not forget the soap.)

Having finished his meal, Haruto left for the shopping district. While walking there, he catches sight of a familiar red-head. It was Lora. Lora also saw him so she showed a friendly smile and rushed over to him.

「Oh, if it is not, Haruto. It has been awhile. What are you up to?」(Lora)

「Nothing much, I'm just here to buy some daily necessities.」(Haruto)

Hearing his response, Lora's eyes sparkled.

「I know of an inexpensive shop; I don't mind guiding you there for 500 Doraria.」(Lora)

「No thanks. I will look around on my own.」(Haruto)

While Haruto's does have 390,000 Doraria, that amount will only last him about 9 months. If possible, he wanted to save money.

「You should know that the prices in the shops will vary. If you are careless, you could end up with inferior goods....., with just 500 Doraria you could avoid the risk. If you are low on money, that is all the more reason to hire me as I am well informed about this town.」(Lora)

Of course, there was some truth to what she said as paying 500 Doraria here could possibly save him money later.

「Fine. But, I ask that you properly do your job.」(Haruto)

「Fufufu, thank you for your patronage—」(Lora)

Lora looked happy when she received the copper coins.



「First off, clothes. Now follow me please.」(Lora)

Haruto accompanied Lora. She advances through a crowd of people. When Haruto had caught up with Lora, they arrived in a back alley.

「This is a shortcut. It is like a maze, so please follow me closely.」(Lora)

For a moment, Haruto felt anxious but judged that it would be alright to accompany her. Before he knew it, at some point Haruto had come to trust Lora.

After a short walk, they arrived on the main street. As soon as they reach the main street, Lora stopped.

「This is the place. They sell men's clothing in the center. I will be scolded if I enter, so please go do your shopping.」(Haruto)

Haruto entered the store. The stock they have was quite good. Although he didn't know if the price was cheap or expensive, it was probably cheap. Haruto got 3 inexpensive underwear, 3 sets of casual clothes that are similar to the ones he saw being worn in town, and while he was there; he bought 3 towels. Haruto had purchased 12 items that added up to 16,000 Doraria. (T/N: either Author-san made a mistake or the clothes set includes pants and shirts)

「A-are you finished? Next will be a wallet, correct.」(Lora)

Once again, Lora swiftly made her way through while Haruto could barely keep up with her.

「Lora, you're walking too fast. Do you mind slowing down?」(Haruto)

「Eh! Sorry. This is my usual walking pace when I'm alone.」(Lora)

She slows down and walks side by side with Haruto. While walking along, they talked about the world around them.

「That remains me, the library here sure is big. The library in my hometown wasn't nearly as spacious.」(Haruto)

「Yes, it is out of the ordinary. For 1,000 years; Clarice has been trading with the eastern countries and the kingdom. In the process, they have obtained about 700,000 books. By the way, Haruto how big was the collection of books in your hometown's library?」(Lora)

「Maybe it was around 9 million.」(Haruto)

「There is no need to exaggerate. You know, Clarice has the biggest library in the world.」(Lora)

Lora showed a triumphant expression on her face. Although, in reality, Haruto was speaking the truth.

A short while later, they arrive at a shop that sold leather goods.

「You can buy a belt or a wallet here. I recommend that you purchase a wallet with a chain attached to it. It would help in dealing with pickpocketers.」(Lora)
Heeding her words, Haruto entered the store. He looked around the shop for a wallet and chain set.

The price was reasonable enough and after finding one he liked, the purchase was made.

Haruto exited the store and once again, he walked alongside Lora.

「By the way, Haruto-san, you're quite proficient with the Claris (キリス語) language despite being a foreigner.」(Lora)

The city-states official language is Claris.

「Well, now that have I bought a wallet and clothes, all that is left is soap.」(Haruto)

For Haruto, who has a love for cleanliness, not having soap is a big problem.

「Eh? 『Soap』? What is that?」(Lora)

The moment he heard that, Haruto froze. "No soap..... I never considered that possibility", Haruto thought. It was said that until Europeans introduced soap to the warring states of Japan, there was none.

(How troublesome..... there is no soap. Huh? But wait, I remember seeing something similar to soap at Undine.....)

「You know, that thing that is used to wash off dirt. That bubbly stuff.」
(Haruto)

「Oh, are you talking about bubble-berry? You should have said so from the start.」 (Lora)

Bubble-berry..... is an item he has never heard of. Haruto tilted his head as he heard of lye but never of the former. In the olden days, lye was something that was used to wash laundry. “But, what is bubble-berry..... is it a soapberry?”, he thought.

「What is bubble-berry?」 (Haruto)

「Eh! You don't know? Is it not grown in the east.....? Look, it is that berry they are selling over there. Bubble-berry is commonly used by the rich because they regularly washing their body to kept their skin from being ruined.」 (Lora)
In the direction where Lora was pointing, they were selling a big black soapberry.
“Did they not invent soap because there was already a soap substitute?”, while Haruto thought this, he went to check the price.

(Awhh, expensive! Seriously, 30,000 Doraria.....)

One bottle cost 30,000 Doraria, that it equal to the cost of staying at Sylph's pavilion for 3 weeks.

(It can't be helped; I have to make my own.....)

Haruto decided on making his own soap.

Haruto's hobby was making soap. He got into making soap when his mother had tried it out. She eventually gave up but Haruto continued to make soap. Since then, making soap has become his past-time. Soap itself isn't difficult to make. It is easily made by blending fats/ oil with sodium hydroxide and then heating it up.

(Before I can make it, I need the necessary ingredients and tools.....)

「Lora, would you happen to know where I can get a hot pot, olive oil, salt, and firewood?」 (Haruto)

「Eh? I do but..... what are you planning to use it for?」 (Lora)

「Well, you'll see.」 (Haruto)

Haruto directs a broad smile towards Lora. She merely tilts her head in puzzlement.



Haruto parted ways with Lora. He left the clothes he had bought at the inn before leaving for the mountains to heat the firewood that was necessary for making soap.

「I would never have guessed that my hobby would end up being useful.」
(Haruto)

One never knows what life will throw their way. Now all Haruto has to do is acquire the necessary ingredients oil and sodium hydroxide. The oil he will be using is olive oil that he had purchased for 1,000 Doraria. While he could have used fat from meat, it would have caused the soap to be smelly. The sodium hydroxide could simply be substituted with common ash from firewood.

While making the ash, he had to be careful not to start a forest fire. Haruto lit the firewood using a lighter. Afterward, he mixed in water and lye. A short while later, he heated it up and then added salt. The stuff that floated to the top is the soap. Haruto then collects that stuff with a jar that he had prepared. Haruto stares at the finished soap. While the proper ingredients and tools were not available in this world, he was somehow able to improvise. At any rate, the results were better than nothing.

By the time he was done, it was already getting dark out. Haruto hurried and returned to the inn.

「A sandwich, please.」(Haruto)

He made a request to Marceau. Haruto was so engrossed with making soap that he had skipped lunch. After quickly eating his sandwich, Haruto started a conversation with Marceau.

「Excuse me, do you have a moment?」(Haruto)

「What is, okyaku-san.」(Marceau)

Haruto shows the soap that he had made to Marceau, who still has the same evil-looking eyes.

「This is soap. Will you be willing to try and use this to wash your dirty dishes instead of lye? I believe it will give a better clean than lye.」(Haruto)

Haruto was interested in seeing the response of someone who has never heard of soap after they have tried using it. At any rate, he also wanted to boast about his feeling towards soap.

「Eh? This thing! Sure, but.....」(Marceau)

While half doubting it, Marceau tries washing the dirty dishes with the soap. His doubt quickly changed to astonishment.

「This thing is amazing! Lye can't even compare to this. How much is this?」
(Marceau)

The amount of soap Haruto had passed to Marceau was about 1/3 of the portion made. Except for the olive oil, everything else was free. It cost Haruto 300 Doraria to make the soap.

「Well, how about 300 Doraria?」(Haruto)

「This is only 300 Doraria!!」(Marceau)

His reaction is no surprise. If one thinks about it, a single bottle of bubble-berry is 30,000 Doraria. This soap here is 300 Doraria. For Marceau, the soap is far cheaper than bubble-berry.

(Hey? Is this not profitable?)

Haruto realized it. If he were to market the soap; he could make a fortune, the town would become cleaner and women's hair would also become cleaner.

(While being transported to another world is troublesome, living an ordinary life would be boring.)

Haruto smiled.



After returning to the inn, Haruto requested hot water from Hannah. One bucket cost him 300 Doraria. Haruto whisks the soap that he had made and washed his body. But as he had thought, the soap was greatly different from what he knew of.

Haruto wipes himself dry with the towel that he had recently bought and then returns to his room. While laying on his bed, he pondered about what to do after today.

(I need permission before starting a business..... as I thought, I should get my citizenship. Shall I go check town hall, tomorrow? Oh yeah, I promised to show Lora the soap. She sure does stink, though.)

While thinking about Lora, Haruto fell asleep.

=====

Food Expenses: 1,200

Hot Water: 300

Clothes: 16,000

Wallet: 5,000

Hot Pot: 12,000

Olive Oil: 1,000

Firewood: 200

Remaining Balance: 352,300

- [ToC](#) -

Chapter 4: Citizenship

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第4話 市民権
Chapter 4 – Citizenship

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

The next morning, Haruto awoken in a good mood. As usual, he goes to washing his face at the water well, there he was greeted by Hannah.
「Good morning, Asuma-san. I heard from my husband, yesterday, about that amazing dirt and grime remover.」(Hannah)

「Are you talking about soap, this thing.」(Haruto)
Haruto shows her the soap that he is using to wash his face.
「Yes, that. Will you not give me some? Of course not for free, I will pay you for it and I'm also willing to offer you a discount at the inn.」(Haruto)

「Sorry, but I don't have much left. I'll sell you some the next time I make a batch, okay.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto clear cut answer, Hannah showed a slightly disappointed expression. Anyhow, it was as he thought; soap does have merit.

「I see, then next time, right.」(Hannah)

Hannah said what she needed to and then left. Haruto dried his face with his towel.



「Umm, do you happen to have any more of that soap thing?」(Marceau)
As Haruto eats a skewer, Marceau asked about the same thing Hannah did.

「Now that I have used soap, I can't bring myself to go back to using lye.」
(Marceau)

Haruto gave Marceau the same response he gave Hannah. Although Marceau looked disappointed, when he heard that Haruto will be selling more later, Marceau seemed relieved.

「Excuse me, do you mind telling me where the public office it located?」 (Haruto)
「Public office? It is in the central plaza. You will immediately be able to tell which place it is by looking at the signboards. Why, do you need to know..... ah! Are you perhaps going to apply for a license to open a street stall? If so, I would be glad to help. Please, feel free to ask me anything.」 (Marceau)

Marceau seemed hyped up. Thinking this was a saving grace, Haruto took the chance to ask Marceau several questions.

「Is it really necessary for me to receive permission before opening a street stall?」 (Haruto)

「Yes, you must first receive permission from town-hall. However, there is a sales tax; it is 1% for citizens and 5% for foreigners.」 (Marceau)

As expected, there is a sales tax.

「Then, is it better to get my citizenship?」 (Haruto)

「Umm, citizens have a 10% income tax. But, if you plan to settle in this country it is better to become a citizen early so you don't have to pay the foreigner tax.」
(Marceau)

Now that Haruto thought about it, he recalled a talk about a tax for staying more than 3 months. Because there is no certainty of him finding a way home, it is best for Haruto to get his citizenship before any possible trouble can occur.

「Well, you are a wandering traveler so you probably aren't going to stay in this country for long. But, do please consider becoming a citizen here. This county's taxes are low and the food here is delicious. Also, immigrants are very welcome here. Besides, it would make Maria happy.」 (Marceau)

Marceau laughs loudly. While feeling happy, Haruto thought that this family is good people.

「Haha, thank you very much. I will consider becoming a citizen here. For now, I will go to the public office.」 (Haruto)

Haruto pays for his meal.

「Hey, thank you for your patronage and take care.」(Marceau)



As he traveled to the central plaza, Haruto thought about getting his citizenship. He knew of no method to return home. The world is fairly big so if he were to receive his citizenship, Haruto could possibly travel the lands in search of a way home. However, Haruto doesn't have a strong desire to go home. If there were a way for him to make a living here, it might not be such a bad thing for his bones to eventually be laid to rest in this country.

(Well, for the time being, I should go and have a talk with the public office. Perhaps, there might be a duty to serve in their military.)

As he thought about it, Haruto arrived in the central plaza. He saw a large fountain and children running around. Haruto looked around and noticed plenty of large buildings. One by one, he checks the signboards.

(Courthouse, citizen's assembly, the slave trading firm looks quite grand..... ah, over there is the public office.)

Having found the public office, he enters. Inside it holds the same serious atmosphere that a government office would have. While feeling nervous, Haruto starts a conversation with the male attendant that looked the youngest.

「Excuse me, I am here for permission to open a street stall.」(Haruto)

「Ah, okay then. Please hand me your entry permit.」(male attendant)

As he was told, Haruto took out his entry permit.

「Haruto・Asuma, correct? Okay, confirmed. Will this be your first street stall?」

(male attendant)

「Yes, that's right.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, the man gave him a sneering smile.

「I see, then I will give you an explanation. A street stall is allowed to operate from sunrise to sunset. Without exceptions, a license has to be requested before a street stall can be opened. And, without exceptions, to operate after sunset a license has to be received from town hall. Now as for sales tax..... Asuma-sama, you are a foreigner, therefore, you will have to pay a 5% sales tax. In the case that you falsify information, you will serve 5 years in prison or be fined 3 million Doraria. If you happen to operate without the necessary permit, you will be fined

50,000 Doraria.] (male attendant)

The explanation about penalties ends. Haruto etched it into his mind so that he would not forget as the fines were not low at all.

「Do you want your permit issued today?」 (male attendant)

For the time being, Haruto is not yet prepared. It would be pointless to have it issued today.

「No, I am fine for today. I would like to ask about another matter?」 (Haruto)

「Okay. First shall I explain about social positions. In this country there is a 1st-class citizen・2nd-class citizen・3rd-class citizen・foreigner's are in the 4th category. Should I stop here?」

Haruto has heard of the term citizen and foreigner but he doesn't know about 1st-class and 2nd-class citizens. The duties and obligations that these social positions have, Haruto doesn't know.

「I would like to hear more..... can you start from the beginning?」 (Haruto)

The man shows an unpleasant expression and doesn't response.

「Yes, okay. First off, the term 1st-class citizen refers to the average citizens of Clarice. They pay a 10% income tax and are obligated to serve in the military. Although the draft has not been in use for ages. However, there is a draft exemption tax; in times of emergencies, Clarice will use the money from this tax to hire mercenaries. As such there is nothing to worry about. The exemption tax is about 50,000 Doraria per year.」 (male attendant)

Upon hearing this, Haruto felt relieved. He didn't want to die on a battlefield in another world.

「Next, as for 2nd-class citizens. They are people who have not paid their residence tax and income tax for the past 2 years. They have been deprived of their entry permit and citizen card. In certain cases, those who have committed minor crimes will be dropped to a 3rd class citizen. If they were to commit a serious crime they could receive the death penalty.」 (male attendant)

In other words, they are people without a family and are unemployed. Haruto assumes that Lora is probably a 2nd-class citizen.

「Next are 3rd-class citizens. To sum it up, they are slaves. As I previously mention, a 2nd class citizen that has committed a crime or a 1st-class/ 2nd-class citizen with an unpaid debt will be dropped to this class. They will then become a

slave and sold on auction at the slave market. The market price for a healthy adult male is about 2 million Doraria. Although slaves are not fundamental treated humanely, it is prohibited to use injustice violence against them and minimum necessities & wages must be paid to them. Again, the slave owner must pay 5% of the slave's purchase price as a slave tax every year. However, if a slave goes against their owner they will receive the death penalty. By the way, a slave can buy his/ her freedom, or an owner with good intentions can release the slave.] (male attendant)

The slave system is nothing like modern-day slavery, but more comparable to the ancient Roman and Greek slave system. Haruto was slightly relieved to hear it.

「Lastly, foreigners. This is Asuma-sama's current social position. If you were to stay for more than 3 months you will be obligated to pay 100,000 Doraria in tax. And, as for taxes..... the sales tax and the slave tax will be higher. If you were to commit a crime, the punishment for foreigners has a tendency to be fairly heavy.」 (male attendant)

This it the first Haruto has heard about affairs pertaining to criminal offensives. Upon hearing the information, Haruto felt relieved. As he thought, it would be less restraining if he became a citizen.

Haruto considered getting his citizenship. There are too many demerits for being a foreigner in this country. It is probably better for him to get his citizenship early.

「How do I get my citizenship?」 (Haruto)

Hearing Haruto say this, the male attendant showed a delightful smile.

「Do you wish to immigrate to our country? We will offer you a warm welcome. Ah, you are required to be able to write this country's characters. If you are able, I can fetch the official documents right away. However, you will not be able to give up your citizenship for 10 years. In case you do abandon your citizen prior to the 10 year grace period, you will be fined 10 million Doraria.」 (male attendant)
The citizenship is not unconditional and the terms are not particularly strict.
Haruto decided to acquire his citizenship.

「Then, I would like to become a citizen.」 (Haruto)

「Yes, thank you very much. Now then, fill out this document, please.」 (male attendant)

The document asked for one's name, age, place of residence, occupation, and other such questions.

While filling out the document, Haruto was glad that he had learned the written characters at the library.

Haruto hands over the document he completed and then the male attendant passed Haruto a metal plate.

「This is your citizenship card. Your citizenship card can be reissued during the time taxes are collected; however, I ask that you please don't lose it.」 (male attendant)

Haruto tucks away his citizen card in his pocket. He has now officially become a citizen of Clarice.

After expressing his gratitude, he exited the building. 4 days ago, never in this wildest dream did Haruto expect that he would be transported to another world and then became a resident there.

For now, Haruto needs the necessary funds for opening his business. Perhaps the 300,000 Doraria he has now is sufficient but Haruto wanted at least 500,000 Doraria just to be sure.

(Okay, should I go sell the 1 yen coins?)

A 1-yen coin..... to be accurate, Haruto is referring to aluminum. Nowadays, the cost of aluminum is very low as it is mass produced for use with electricity. Although, in earlier times, it was regarded as valuable and trading it was considered high-end business transactions. It just happens that Haruto has 20 or so these 1 yen coins as he isn't the type of person who was bothered with carrying small change. It would normally be troubling to have spare change in one's pocket but in the case of being in another world, these 1 yen coins are treasures.

First off, he needs to verify the market price at the library. Haruto flips through a picture book with information pertaining to rare metals and found the page about aluminum. It says 1g is worth 100,000 Doraria. Personally, Haruto thought the value was too high; although, the amount he would end up receiving is going to be more than enough. He closed the book and then placed it back on the shelf before exiting the library.

Haruto's goal now is to find a place to sell the 1 yen coins. As this is a big city, there is bound to be a shop that will purchase these coins. If possible, Haruto wanted it to be a well-established shop.

He went to the central plaza and searched for a store that specializes in precious metals. After searching for a little while, he discovered a showy signboard. There were wealthy looking people coming and going from the shop here. Haruto thought "this is the place", as he went inside.

「Welcome, okyaku-sama. What do you need?」 (store clerk)

Haruto saw the store clerk directing a broad sneering grin towards him. The currently Haruto looks poor and thus he appears out of place.

「I would like to have some precious metals appraised.」 (Haruto)

「I see, is it a ring or perhaps a necklace?」 (store clerk)

Haruto shakes his head no and then took out a 1 yen coin.

「In the east, they use light silver coins. I would like to convert these into the gold coins that are used here.」 (Haruto)

For a moment, the store clerk was surprised but then the person's broad grin returns.

「I see, then I will have a look..... ah, this is aluminum. Is this all?」 (store clerk)

「No, I have about 20 of these.」 (Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, the store clerks eyebrows moved.

「I see..... by the way, is this another country's currency?」 (store clerk)

For a second, Haruto was troubled but then he recited a name.

「Yes, from the country of Cipangu it seems.」 (Haruto)

Haruto replies to the store clerks question.

「This will be difficult. Can you wait awhile?」 (store clerk)

That is natural as each 1 yen coin is worth at least 100,000 Doraria.

「Yes, that is fine.」 (Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, the store clerk went to the back of the shop. Chances are, he is going to weigh the coins and check up on the country called Cipangu. In the first place, the country called Cipangu doesn't exist in this world.

A short while later, the store clerk returned from the interior of the store.

「Yes, it is indeed aluminum. How about each one for 90,000 Doraria.」 (store clerk)

That is below the market price. Besides, there are times when hard-currency has additional value. The market price should be a bit higher. The store clerk is probably thinking Haruto is an ignorant foreigner.

「No, that is too low. The market price is at least 100,000 Doraria; although, I think the current value should be a bit more.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's answer, the store clerk seemed a little troubled. Haruto carefully listens to the store clerks attempt to bargain.

「Then, how about 110,000 Doraria?」(The current market price is about 140,000 Doraria; although it could probably fetch for 150,000 Doraria.)

For a moment, Haruto doubted his ears when he heard the overlapping voice. "Just where is it coming from?", he thought. As an experiment, Haruto tried raising the price.

「Huh, I think the current market price is about 140,000 Doraria. Wait, that was careless of me. I think I could probably sell it for about 170,000 Doraria, so how about for that much?」(Haruto)

As Haruto say this, he watched as the store clerk's expression collapsed. Afterward, Haruto carefully listens to what the store clerk says.

「That is too high. Besides..... it's only worth about 150,000 Doraria.」(Why..... if he knew the market price, he should have just said so from the start. Just when I thought I could beat down the price. Whatever. I can still make plenty of profit for 150,000 Doraria.)

As Haruto assumed, he can hear an overlapping voice. Perhaps, that voice was the speaker's true intentions. Haruto decided to utilize this ability for the time being, showing that he is fairly capable of adapting to this world.

「Then, please confirm the trade, 20 coins for 3 million Doraria.」(store clerk)

Haruto counts the gold coins that enter the pouch. Certainly, there are 30 gold coins.

「Thank you very much. When I have the chance, I will be sure to purchase a few of your expensive goods.」(Haruto)

「I will be looking forward to it.」(Saying that in such a good mood, don't you dare come back here again.....)

The moment Haruto left the store, he instantly felt tired. Although he isn't sure how to use the funds, the negotiation went in his favor. And thus, he decided to

use it the best he could.

With a large amount of money in his custody, Haruto headed for the inn. While half way from the inn, he arrived near the slave market. In front of the slave market, there was a loud commotion. Wondering what was happening, he went over to look and then overheard people speaking.

「Like I was saying, I didn't steal it. It is the truth!! Please, believe me. Let me go!!」 (Lora)

「Liar! There is no way an orphan like you can have a wallet with money in it. In the first place, why should we trust the words of a bread thief!!」 (???)

Lora has been arrested.....

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Expenses: 400

Income: 3 Million.

Remaining Balance: 3,351,900

- [ToC](#) -

Chapter 5: Lora Summers

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第5話 ロア・サマラス
Chapter 5 – Lora · Summers

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

Lora · Summers is Rivas · Summers (リヴァス · サマラス) and Helen · Summers (ヘレン · サマラス) only daughter.

Rivas · Summers was an heir to a small company in the city-state of, Shufelt (スフェルト). Aside from Rivas, he had a little brother named Reinard (レイナール). In the neighborhood, these two siblings were known to be close.

Rivas and Reinard, the two brothers who were quite close, quickly grew up. But then, that event tore the two of them apart. While their parents were traveling on route to another city-state for business, both parents were involved in a rockslide and died. At the time, Rivas was 18 while Reinard was 15. To further complicate matters, the married couple had secretly taken out a loan and had hidden that fact from the brothers. The company was also on the verge of collapsing. Normally, the debt is supposed to be inherited by the brothers. Although by Shufelt law, the children have the privilege of choosing who receives the inheritance (including debt). However, there is an exception to the rule. They can refuse the inheritance by legally cutting ties with the parents. Naturally, those who cut ties are not allowed to attend the funeral. The two brothers disagreed on whether to succeed their parent's debt.

Rivas claimed that they should receive it out of love for their parents, returning the favor. If they were to cut ties, that would mean abandoning the Summers'

firm and their employees.

Reinard claimed that they should legally sever ties with their parents. Even if they don't go to the funeral, the bonds with their parents will still exist. And, that their parents would have wanted them to not be burden with debt. Inheriting the debt would make their parents unhappy and either way, the Summers' company will collapse; it was better to get it over with, he suggested.

Neither of the two would admit that they were wrong. The two had argued for 3 days and 3 nights but nothing was settled on. Eventually, Rivas received all of the parent's inheritance (including debt) and Reinard had cut ties with both of his parents.

Rivas by himself had succeeded the Summers' company and inherited the debt. After his parents' funeral, he reshaped the firm and began to repay the debt. However, the bubble-berry proved to be a heavy burden for the Summers' company to handle. Bubble-berry is very easily affected by the change in the weather and the market price can fluctuate just as easily. Rivas tried his best to supply a steady flow of bubble-berry by investing in its cultivation at a farming village. He built facilities in order to maintain and preserve the bubble-berry, a thoroughly economical endeavor in an attempt to eliminate waste. At the time, Rivas even had to bow down his head to the debt collectors.

When Rivas was 23, he was visited by Reinard. When they met, Reinard bowed his head down to Rivas. (T/N: dogeza)

「Sorry, nii-san. I was mistaken. I should have inherited the debt. Although, I may not be able to atone, may I help nii-san out?」 (Reinard)
Of course, if this man was not his family, Rivas would have declined; however, Reinard has earnestly apologized. And thus, Rivas forgave Reinard as originally they were quite close. From a perspective, it appeared that the two of them had reconciled. Until that time.....

One by one, Reinard linked transaction after transaction until he had a solid position in the company.

With Rivas's and Reinard's effort, their achievements began to bear fruit and the debt had been repaid. Rivas was 25, then. The Summers' firm was no longer small but a prominent up and coming company in Shufelt.

During this time, Rivas was busy with work so he was still a bachelor. Having gained achievements and having restored the company, there were soon talks about marriage. At the age of 25, there was now a mountain of marriage proposals. The reason why was because Rivas was quite handsome.

Around that time, Rivas was invited to an influential gathering at a parliament-held-party. As most of his clientele for bubble-berry were wealthy people, he had no reason to refuse so he attended. There Rivas had a fateful encounter.

The person in question was reported to be the most beautiful woman..... not really. She wasn't particularly beautiful nor was she ugly, her appearance was somewhere in-between. Let's say, she is a beautiful redhead. By chance, Rivas happened upon the woman when she was having her meal alone. Being curious about her action, he talked to her.

「My name is Rivas・Summers. May I ask you for your name?」(Rivas)
As he says this, his body was shaking. She turns to look at him. After swallowing her steak, the woman answered Rivas.

「I am Helen・Albertine (ヘレン・アルベルティーニ). Rivas・Summers..... sorry, I have never heard of you before. What is your reason for coming here?」(Helen)

Rivas was surprised to hear that. First off, he knows of the family with the surname, Albertine. In this country, the people who share that name would fight from the top 1st and 2nd seat in the parliament. Secondly, while Rivas was unfamiliar with women, he found her to be a woman of superior quality. He was more or less interested in her as Helen had a sophisticated air about her; Rivas liked that she didn't try to flatter him with compliments and thus the two naturally became more acquainted.

After dating for 1 year, Rivas and Helen were married despite Helen's father's reluctance for them to marry. At the time, Helen was 21 and Rivas was 26. A year later, Helen gave birth to a lovely baby girl.

「Look at that, she has the same beautiful hair as you. It almost like a ruby.」(Rivas)

「If I had to say, she resembles you more. It is going to be troublesome in the future when all those marriage proposals start coming.」(Helen)

「Not going to happen! This child isn't going anywhere!!」(Rivas)

Rivas was acting like a splendid doting-parent. Although, Helen's father was the most delighted as he was known to clamor on about how much of a prodigy the child was. This baby girl was named, Lora. Lora quickly grew up while receiving her parent's love.

As for Helen's father..... while he did claim that Lora was a prodigy, in truth she was. By the time she was 5, Lora could perfectly read and write. When Lora turned 6, she was capable of being able to calculate well enough to manage a business. At the age of 7, Lora had taken an interest in the family business and was being taught by Rivas the basics of business management.

Again and again, Lora exceeded the norm of what the average person was capable of. Because of this, she received a fairy's blessing. A person has a 1/10,000 chance to be gifted with a fairy's blessing. Those who have such an ability are able to use that ability at the cost of very little maryoku. The ability can vary from person to person. For example; there is an ability that allows a person to avoid incoming objects or arrows that are approaching at a fixed speed, a clairvoyance blessing that can see over long distances, and an ability that lets a person read another's mind. Lora was born with a money-making based blessing; this ability allows her to smell the scent of profit. Rivas and Helen were delighted to hear that Lora had a business specialized ability. Fearing that Lora would be kidnapped, they decided to keep quiet about her blessing until she was an adult. She was told not to tell anyone about her ability. Lora was a clever little girl, she understood that she couldn't boast to her friends about her blessing.

Things changed when Lora turned 9. Rivas and Helen were going away on a important business trip. Lora didn't throw a tantrum this time when she saw the two of them off.

「Well, Lora we are leaving now. I will bring you back a souvenir when we return.」(Rivas)

「Lora be good and listen to what Reinard-san says, okay.

Reinard-san, I'm leaving Lora in your care.」(Helen)

「Don't worry, please leave it to me. I will protect Lora with my life.」(Reinard)

Lora and Reinard waited for Rivas and Helen to return. While Rivas and Helen were absence, Reinard took care of Lora. She was told that her parents would

return in 2 weeks. However, when her parents were supposed to return, 2 weeks later, bad news had arrived instead.

Rivas-Summers and Helen-Summers were attacked and had died. They were attacked by robbers on route to their destination. Of course, the two had hired mercenaries; however, they were unlucky. While on a seemingly safe road they had encountered bandits.

With his dying breath, Rivas wrote a message on his clothes.

『*Lora will inherit the company. I nominated Reinard as her guardian. Lora, please grow up in good health.*』

A grand funeral was held for the two. It was a funeral fit for the president of a prominent company and the daughter of a parliament member. Lora loudly cried that day.

『Why!! Liar. You promised me you would return. You said you'd bring me back a gift if I was a good child.』 (Lora)

When Lora cried her eyes out, Reinard was the one that comforted her.

『Lora-chan..... you can cry as much as you want. It is okay to cry when you're sad. But, the two liked Lora's smile more than her tear-stained face. You may be crying now, but try to send them off with a smile.』 (Reinard)

Hearing this, Lora regained her composure. The two will not be returning. If she continued to weep, her parents would not be able to be relieved while in Heaven. Besides, Reinard must also be sad, she thought. He knew her parent far longer than herself..... Lora finished crying and then sent them off with a smile.

That night, Lora awoken in her bed. After the funeral had ended, Lora cried herself to sleep with tears clinging to her face. Reinard was the one who carried Lora to her bed.

From all her crying, Lora had become thirsty. When she left her room to get a cup of water, she heard voices while she was walking down the hallway.

『Here is the reward I promised you. Thank you, for your work and I'll be counting on you for next time as well.』 (Reinard)
『Yes, I certainly will accept. By the way, are you really alright with the dying message? Would it not have been better to name yourself the successor?』 (????)

「Idiot, that would be too suspicious. This way is fine. It will be awhile before that brat becomes an adult. I still have time to overtake things. When that time comes, I will be counting on you to kill Lora.」(Reinard)

「Hihih, as long as you have the money, I am always willing to accept. From now on, I will be in your care, boss.」(???)

The voices belonged to Reinard and an unknown man. In that moment, Lora understood everything. Reinard had planned to take over the company. She started to understand what sort of person Reinard was. It was only a matter of time before it was discovered that Lora overheard their conversation. If she goes to the police, will they believe her..... there is also the chance that the police might be somehow involved. Sensing that her life is in danger, Lora ran away.

With what little money she had on her, Lora took refuge in the neighboring country of Clarice. Having no relatives to rely on, she eventually ran out of money.

She had no money to buy bread. While being hungry, she saw a boy steal bread and in the blink of an eye, he ran away. To steal..... she had no choice. Lora got involved with thievery. Naturally, she wasn't quick enough for pickpocketing and thus she had no choice but to shoplift.

The first thing she stole was an apple. It felt as if her heart would explode from the tension. Later, she found that the stolen apple was surprisingly delicious.

From then onwards, Lora frequently shoplifted. She would especially target bread as it could be preserved. During the day, she could then eat it little by little.

Naturally, she discovered other methods aside from shoplifting. At times, she would guide travelers and peddlers. Lora has a divine blessing that allows her to smell the scent of money (profit); this blessing gives her the ability to locate stores that offer a good bargain. Working on the streets as a guide was fairly profitable. However, the other beggars would do the same. At times, she wasn't able to eat and had to compensate by shoplifting.

While living like this, she turned 12. And then one day, at her usual spot in a back alley, she saw a mysterious young man walking by. The young man was carelessly walking towards the slum. Normally, Lora would not have been concerned with an unknown foreigner being robbed. However, she smelled the

scent of profit. Lora was sure this person would give her a tip.

「Onii-san, that way leads to the slums. Did you want to get robbed?」(Lora)

Lora called out to the young man and he responded to her.

「Thank you for telling me, but that isn't enough for a tip.」(Haruto)

Lora unintentionally made a wry smile. The chance for a tip wasn't gone and thus, Lora introduced herself.

「I haven't even said anything yet. I am Lora-Summers. Onii-chan, what is your name? You are wearing clothes I have never seen before; where are you from?」(Lora)

The young man stated his name.

「My name is Haruto-Asuma. I am from the far east.」(Haruto)

Lora acknowledged that this young man had come from the east as she has never seen someone with his features. To befriend the young man, Lora continued the conversation.

「From the far east....., do you mean past the large mountain, great forest, and the vast desert? That sure is very far away.」(Lora)

When she said this, the young man hurried the conversation.

「Anyhow, where can I find an inn; do you mind being my guide?」(Haruto)

For some reason, Lora was in the mood to swindle the young man. But, only in the sense of being a guide as there was no need for her to dig a hole and cover it with leaves.

「I'm alright with that, but not for free.....」(Lora)

Lora demanded a tip and the young man handed her 4 copper coins. Normally, a tip is 1 copper coin; however, the other party wasn't stingy with their coin. As she smiled, Lora thought his person was an easy mark.

「Fufu, thank you very much. Now, Haruto-san, what are you looking for?」(Lora)

「If possible, I'm looking for somewhere that is clean, but affordable. A cheap place would be nice.」(Haruto)

If that is the case, then it has to be Sylph's pavilion. That shop is clean and popular. Also, Undine being next door made it a good deal. Having received 4 copper coins, she carried out her work.

「Understood. Then will 『Sylph's Pavillion (シルフー亭)』do. That place charges

about 2,000 Doraria a night.] (Lora)

Upon Lora's answer, the young man's eyebrows furrowed; he seems to be thinking about something.

「Excuse me, but will you tell me about the currency here, for reminder's sake?」 (Haruto)

When Lora heard him say this, she was surprised. "Just how far did this person travel for them to not know the value of the currency", she thought. But, this was yet another chance for a profit.

「Alright, but it will cost you 1 copper.」 (Lora)

Lora smiled as she demanded a tip. Haruto showed a wry smile as he handed her the coin.

While on the way to Sylph's pavilion, she answered Haruto's questions. It was things such as the value of currency here and the basic geography.

「Truly, a wasteful expense.」 (Haruto)

Today, Lora earned 8 copper coins. It was a big profit.

「Well, that is Haruto-san own fault for being ignorant.」 (Lora)

It was true. "Where one earth was this person before they came to Clarice", she thought.

「Despite being a beggar, you sure do know the value of a gold coin and the geography of this land.」 (Haruto)

Lora was startled by Haruto's words. Although, he was right. Beggars usual have never seen a gold coin and as for knowing the geography, Lora doesn't know.

「Eh, well, it isn't like I started out as a beggar.」 (Lora)

Lora dodged the question as it is a matter of the past and that wasn't something one should talk about with a person they just met.

It wasn't longer before they reached Sylph's pavilion and soon they will say their farewells.

「Over there is Sylph's Pavillion. Now then, I will be excusing myself.」 (Lora)

Lora considered Haruto to be a good natured person.

The next time Lora and Haruto encountered one another, it would be 2 days later when Lora was following the scent of profit on the streets.

The scent lead her to Haruto.

「Oh, if it is not, Haruto. It has been awhile. What have you been up to?」 (Lora)

Lora rushed over to greet Haruto.

「Nothing much, I'm just here to buy some daily necessities.」(Haruto)

Lora kept her eyes open for her chance to make a profit.

「I know of an inexpensive shop; I don't mind guiding you there for 500 Doraria.」

(Lora)

「No thanks. I will look around on my own.」(Haruto)

She needs to pull him in. Lora tried to persuade Haruto.

「You should know that the prices in the shops will vary. If you are careless, you could end up with inferior goods....., for just 500 Doraria you could avoid such dangers. If you are low on money, that is all the more reason to hire me as I am well informed about this town.」(Lora)

As Clarice is a country of merchants, there are numerous swindlers and conmen here.

「Fine. But, I ask that you properly do your job.」(Haruto)

Lora was able to convince Haruto and thus became his guide.

「Fufufu, thank you for your patronage—」(Lora)

She was quite glad when she received the copper coins.

While Lora guided Haruto to a shop, he initiated a conversation. She normally didn't talk with those she guided, but for some reason, Lora felt she couldn't just ignore him. And thus, she took an active role in the conversation.

「By the way, Haruto-san, you're quite proficient with the Claris (キリス語) language despite being a foreigner.」(Lora)

Despite her principle of not prying into the customer's affairs, Lora voiced her opinion about what she had been thinking about after taking into consideration how close they have become.

「Well, now that have I bought a wallet and clothes, all that is left is soap.」(Haruto)

But, he doesn't give a reply. However "what is soap?", she thought. Lora had no idea what it was. It wasn't in any of the many books she had read in the past.

「Eh? 『Soap』? What is that?」(Lora)

Upon Lora's response, Haruto showed a flustered expression. "Was it really that important?", she thought.

「You know, that thing that is used to wash off dirt. That bubbly stuff.」(Haruto)

Dirt..... lye is usually used to remove it. The wealthy would use bubble-berry, though.

「Oh, are you talking about bubble-berry? You should have said so from the start.」(Lora)

If it is something used to remove dirt, then is it mostly like that. Bubble-berry was something her father had dealt in. Lora had absolute confidence about that topic.

「What is a bubble-berry?」(Haruto)

Hearing this Lora was shocked. Bubble-berry is not only used in the city-states but also the kingdoms and the empire.

「Eh! You don't know? Is it not grown in the east.....? Look, it is the berry that they are selling over there. Because the skin on your body will get ruined if you don't wash it, it is usually used by the wealthy.」(Lora)

Lora pointed towards the place selling bubble-berry. When Haruto saw the price, he showed a surprised expression. In the olden day, Lora didn't understand the high price but now that she has become a beggar, she understands. That sort of money isn't used for washing or bathing.

Although Haruto was surprised, he suddenly showed a determined expression.

「Lora, would you happen to know where I can get a hot pot, olive oil, salt, and firewood?」(Haruto)

It was abrupt, but she realized it. “He was planning to do something”, she thought.

「Eh? I do but..... what are you planning to use it for?」(Lora)

A mischief expression appeared on Haruto's face.

「Well, you'll see.」(Haruto)

Lora instinctively tilted her head in puzzlement.



The next day, while she was walking down the street, a wallet fell. Thinking she was lucky, Lora picked it up, inside there was money. Naturally, it looked as if a beggar had stolen a wallet. As she thought this, Lora tried to return the wallet to the ground but then something happened.

「Hey, brat. What are you holding!!」(policeman)

In an instant, Lora's arm is seized by a policeman.

「A wallet? Is this not money! Where did you steal this!!」 (policeman)

She didn't steal it. Lora tried to explain but the other party doesn't listen.

「That is why you're a 2nd-class citizen..... criminal such as yourself should be immediately expelled from this country..... you are coming with me.」 (policeman)

Lora's body breaks out into a cold sweat. At this rate, she will be turned into a slave. Slaves usually do labor intensive work compared to regular citizens.

Because she is female, the chances of her being forced into a corrupted line of work are high. While being dragged off to the slave-trading company, Lora resists as she imagines the things that would happen to her.

「Like I was saying, I didn't steal it. It is the truth!! Please, believe me. Let me go!!」 (Lora)

A crowd had gathered. And then, Lora heard a loud voice come from the surrounding crowd of people.

「Liar! There is no way an orphan like you can have a wallet with money in it. In the first place, why should we trust the words of a bread thief!!」 (???)

「No, this is.....」 (Lora)

This man told them that he had witnessed Lora shoplifting. Lora couldn't refute the claim. If things continue as is; she will be sold to a brothel, end up catching a disease, and then die..... when all hope was about to be lost, at that moment,

「Please, wait.」 (Haruto)

Lora hears the voice of someone suddenly barging into the conversation.

Chapter 6: Circumstances

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第6話 それぞれの事情
Chapter 6 – Circumstances

MTL: uniquegasuki

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Lora has been caught. Haruto hurries to use his ability to hear the hidden meaning behind her words.

「No, that is.....」(Lora: It is true that I've shoplifted, but this matter is unrelated..... however, if speak up, they would treat it as a confession..... ah, there is no way I can object.....)

The fact that she has shoplifted really does seem to be true. Even if she didn't steal the wallet, it does not change the fact that she had committed a crime. Even though she might have done so for the sake of survival, the law is still a law. Haruto can't help Lora. Besides, he only met Lora a few days ago. He has no sense of duty to save her.

Haruto was about to walk away, but the imagine of Lora's smiling face occupied his mind.

If he were to abandon Lora "what would happen to her?", he thought. Of course, she would become a slave. Although Lora is dirty, she has a good face. She would probably be sold to a brothel or a rich old man. And then, Lora would.....

While thinking this, Haruto took action before he himself realized it.

「Please, wait a moment.」(Haruto)

Haruto called out to the policeman that was holding onto Lora.

「What, do you know this person..... are you an acquaintance of their's?」
(policeman)

While being agitated, Haruto spoke up.

「Yes, I am somewhat of an acquaintance of that child. Did something happen?」
(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's question, the policeman gave him a reply.

「This brat stole a wallet. It is useless to cover for this person as it is a fact.」
(policeman)

「Like I was saying, I didn't steal the wallet!! Please, believe me, Haruto-san. Do I look like someone who would do such a thing!!」 [\(Lora: It's true, I didn't steal the wallet. Well, I can't deny that I have shoplifted.....\)](#)

Indeed, Lora does seem to be innocent. Regardless, Haruto was planning on saving her even if she was lying.

「However, this child is claiming she didn't steal it..... is there any proof that she did commit the crime?」 (Haruto)

「Ah, this child was also carrying a wallet with money in it; therefore, I'm certain that was also stolen. And, this person has a history of shoplifting.」 [\(policeman: 2nd-class citizens are well known to be criminals and pickpockets.\)](#)

(That is merely circumstantial evidence!!)

Haruto thought things over. The problem is she has a history of stealing, thus, it is no surprise that they doubt her. Haruto was once falsely accused of being a peeping-tom by a dishonest person. From this experience, he learned that some people are just that sort of person.

「However, that is not definite evidence and that is not a solid enough case.....」 (Haruto)

「If we ignore criminals, the public order will only worsen. This person will be dropped to a 3rd-class citizen and that is final.」 (policeman)

Now then, what will he do..... Haruto has no connections within the police department. At this rate, Lora is going to be sent to the slave market. While Haruto was agonizing over things, a man from the slave market appeared.

「What is wrong? Why all the fuss.....」 (???)

With his sharp eyes, the man observes the surroundings. The policeman hurried

to speak to the man.

「Oh, Wujek-san. About that.....」(policeman)

The policeman explained the circumstance to the man named, Wujek.

「I see so this person is your acquaintance, huh?」(Wujek)

Wujek pointed to Lora. His manner of speech was straightforward, thus, Haruto judge that there was no need to speak politely to this person.

「Ah, Haruto・Asuma, was it?」(Wujek)

「I am, Wujek・Malthus (ユージエック・マルサス). I manage this slave trading firm. I have heard the circumstances. Why don't we have a little chat? Ah, you over there; you may leave.」(Wujek)

The policeman saluted and then left.

「Now then, as for the 3rd-class citizen kid. Will you try to run away; you do realize that we will be discussing your punishment, yes? It would be bad if you did try to run away, though.」(Wujek)

Lora begins to tremble. This is her only chance to run away.

「Now then, the two of you, follow me inside.」(Wujek)

Both Haruto and Lora enter the slave market without saying a word.

「Now, have a sit over there.」(Wujek)

Wujek pointed towards two chairs. One chair is for Haruto while the other chair is for himself. Both Haruto and Wujek sit down. Wujek then spreads out his elbows on the table.

「To be blunt, I can't help this young girl. Nowadays, the public order in Clarice has become corrupted. They no longer have the strength to manage the matter and as such, suspicious arrests have been allowed.」(Wujek: [The number of 2nd-class citizens are decreasing, isn't that a good thing?](#))

Although Haruto clearly heard that, he did not back down.

「That seems doubtful, 「[It's alright, I understand your complaint.](#)」(Haruto/Wujek)

Wujek interrupts Haruto and then broadly grins.

「At this rate, you will cause an uproar later. That would be troublesome; so, therefore, I will make you a deal.」(Wujek: [I can't have yet another group causing a ruckus, now can I.....](#))

Wujek takes a short pause and breathes.

「In short, you saw your acquaintance, this young girl, suffer injustice and couldn't bear to watch. So, how about I will sell her to you for a special price. Let us for..... 2.5 million.」 (Wujek)

「Ah! The market price for a child is 1 million. Is that price not a ripoff?」 (Lora)

Lora shouted out. She wasn't kidding either, that is 2.5 times the market price.

「That isn't so. You have quite a lovely face and your hair is pretty. There are plenty of those types who would love to buy a budding child such as yourself.」 (Wujek)

Lora indeed does have a delicate face. However, there is no way she would be happy being told she could be sold for a high price.

Wujek turned to look at Haruto.

「Legally speaking, you would have to go through an auction; however, I am making you a special offer. Surely you have no objections as there is no chance of losing by even a single Doraria.」 (Wujek: I made my offer; anyhow, I don't have a problem with selling as is.)

Haruto was troubled. There is no guarantee that the final bidding price will be any cheaper. And, Haruto had never participated in a slave market auction. Perhaps he might be able to buy her that way, but it could possibly be better to buy her now.

「Fine. This should be enough.」 (Haruto)

Haruto takes out 25 gold coins, surprising Wujek.

「Oh may, I was going to suggest paying by installments but cash is good too.」 (Wujek)

Wujek received the gold coins and then he took out a document.

「Sign here.」 (Wujek)

Haruto and Lora signed the contract.

「Now, this business is settled. The brat is yours to do with as you please.」 (Wujek)

After saying so, Wujek vanished into the back room. Haruto and Lora exited the slave trading company.

As soon as they left the place, Lora spoke out.

「Why did you save me?」(Lora)

「Just because, it would have left a bad aftertaste.」(Haruto)

「You're too kind.....」(Lora)

「That isn't so. A stranger doesn't help without a reason. It should be a lot easier to talk to you now.」(Haruto)

Lora showed an expression that implied she doesn't understand. No one would hand over 2.5 million for someone they just met. That is the reality.

「Regardless, thank you very much. By the way, what will I be doing?」(Lora)

「For the time being, we need to get 2.5 million worth of work done or I will be in trouble. So, what are you able to do?」(Haruto)

Being asked by Haruto, Lora seemed slightly worried as she replied

「I used to help out my mother, so I am able to do basic house work.」(Lora)

Unfortunately, Haruto is currently staying at an inn and his meals are restaurant bought. And therefore, he has no need for household skills.

「I'm presently staying at an inn..... so is there anything else?」(Haruto)

When Haruto asked her, Lora's cheek then became slightly flushed.

「Well, I can..... serve you at night.....」(Lora)

Haruto looked at Lora with cold eyes.

「Ah! What's with that look!!」(Lora)

「Uhh well, do you realize what you are saying? Did you plan on giving me night service with that scrawny body of yours? Sorry but, I prefer a woman with a voluptuous body, big breasts and butt. Ah! Was that perhaps a joke? Ah, ops. Sorry, it was my misunderstanding.」(Haruto)

With a reddened face, Lora retorted to Haruto over and over.

「Haven't you said enough! Certainly, I'm only 12 and my body is malnourished with hardly any meat, but I will grow up to have a nice body. How could you pass it off as a joke! Surely, my gratitude is a joke; how dare you call my trust a joke!!」(Lora)

It seems that Lora had let her guard down around Haruto. However, there was still something Haruto had to say to her. Haruto definitely had to tell her this by all means.

「Thanks, but there is one thing I must tell you. You stink.」(Haruto)

「Waa!!!」(Lora)

Lora received a shock. She tried sniffing her clothes.

「*sniff, sniff.* I don't smell anything.」(Lora)

「I'm not surprised. You've been like that for so long that your nose can't smell the difference. You need a bath, a bath.」(Haruto)

When Haruto told her so, Lora showed a troubled expression.

「With me being this dirty, they won't allow me in the bath house.....」(Lora)

「It seems so, I don't think management would allow me in either. Ah, the bath house is a fantastic place..... how unfortunate. Well whatever, let us return to Sylph's pavilion for now. I'll ask for some hot water and we can see where to go from there.」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora headed for the inn.



「Well you see,」(Haruto)

While Haruto explained the circumstance, Hannah showed a perplexed expression.

「In short, you saw a young girl become a slave and couldn't stand it so you bought her..... you're a soft-hearted person. Hot water was it. I will go have it prepared.」(Hannah)

Saying so, Hannah went to prepare hot water.

「Haruto-san..... I noticed a major problem.....」(Lora)

「What?」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's questioning, Lora showed a serious expression as she replied.

「I have no change of clothes.....」(Lora)

Haruto intuitively thought about it as it wasn't anything worth mauling over.

「You can just wear my clothes.」(Haruto)

「I see, but that would only transfer my stench to your clothes!」(Lora)

「Who would let that happen, you fool.」(Haruto)

After saying so, they headed to his room. Lora stops in front of Haruto's room.

「Is it alright for me to enter your room, won't I dirty it?」(Lora)

Saying this, she protested to entering. As it was a fact, there were no objections. Alone; Haruto fetched a change of clothes, a towel and the bottle of soap. He

then handed them to Lora.

「This is soap. It is similar to bubble-berry. Give yourself a good wash down, okay.」(Haruto)

「This is soap.....」(Lora)

Lora sees soap for the first time. She sniffs it.

「The hot water is ready!!」(Hannah)

Hannah's voice echoes through the halls.

「Now, hurry off.」(Haruto)

「Y-yes.」(Lora)

Lora goes to the courtyard. Haruto descended the stair and then he saw Hannah.

「About your lodging fee, I will omit Lora's portion as she is a slave. What sort of inn would this be if such a claim was demanded?」(Hannah)

Hannah made a wry smile.

「Ah, thanks for not charging me twice for the same room.」(Haruto)

Haruto was relieved to hear this. Now all he has to worry about is the food expense that has now doubled.

「How is it that you were able to simply buy a slave; are you actually a wealthy person? Owning a slave is normally out of the income range of an average citizen, you know.」(Hannah)

「That isn't so. Thanks to this, I'm nearly coinless.」(Haruto)

「I see. Since you are a good person, you won't be hearing any complaints from me.」(Hannah)

While Hannah was talking, Lora had returned from bathing.

「It seems Lora has finished so I will be leaving for lunch now.」(Haruto)

「Ah, understood. Do you want hot water tonight also, I can have some prepared?」(Hannah)

「Yes, please. Now then, I'm off.」(Haruto)

Haruto bids his farewell to Hannah and takes Lora with him to have lunch.



「Haruto-san..... these are too baggy.」(Lora)

「That is because you're small, it can't be helped.」(Haruto)

At Undine, Haruto ordered two servings of fish meunière. A short while later, Marceau brought their order.

「Haruto-san!! May I eat this?」 (Lora)

「Ah, yes, eat up!」 (Haruto)

While looking overjoyed, Lora begins to eat. She shows good table manners.

「Hey, okyaku-san. Who is that girl?」 (Marceau)

「Well, she is.....」 (Haruto)

Haruto explained the circumstances to Marceau. Marceau has a shocked expression.

「Okyaku-san..... is that not being too soft-hearted?」 (Marceau)

「Well, I just have to earn back that 2.5 million.....」 (Haruto)

While Haruto was talking with Marceau, the sound of tableware being placed down is heard. Lora had finished eating.

「You eat way too fast..... did you even properly taste your food?」 (Haruto)

「Mmm! Although it has been a long time since I had a decent meal, I remembered to properly chew my food. This is the most delicious thing I have eaten in the last 3 years.」 (Lora)

「Should I accept that as you praising my cooking? Umm, yeah, that's quite heavy.....」 (Marceau)

Because the mood had become delicate, Haruto hurried to finished his meal and then left the shop.

When Lora exited the shop,

「Alright!」 (Lora)

She fired herself up and then turned to look at Haruto.

「Haruto-san!!」 (Lora)

「W-what is it?」 (Haruto)

Haruto instinctively took up his guard.

「It has been a long time since my stomach was this full. That being so, I will tell you about my past!!」 (Lora)

After declaring it, she began to speak.

「I see, I got the general idea. Nevertheless, it is quite the heavy burden.」 (Haruto)

Lora has had a hard life. If this was Japan, her story could be made into a top

documentary.

「Why are you telling me this?」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's response, Lora smiled and then said,

「You saved me, and I didn't want to show dishonesty towards you. Anyhow, the past is already in the past. It wasn't all terrible.」(Lora)

If that is being dishonest, then it would not be honest of him to not also talk about his past. Haruto decided to tell her about his background.

「Then let me speak about myself. Truthfully, I am from another world.」(Haruto)

When Haruto finished explaining his story, Lora's jaw dropped.

「To be honest, I can't believe it..... certainly, Haruto's speech & actions are, and if I think about it, the soap does put everything into perspective. Is it alright if I ask 2 questions? The first question, how is it you are able to speak another world's language; is that not strange to you?」(Lora)

Haruto himself doesn't know the answer. But, he does know that a mysterious power is at work.

「Well, something in my mind is unconsciously translating the language for me. Oh, and I was able to understand the written language by being taught it once. Also, I am able to understand what a person is thinking behind the words they speak.」(Haruto)

Lora showed a surprised expression when she heard this.

「The meaning behind a person's words, do you mean to say that you know what I am thinking behind what I say? I would like you to try using it now, please.」

(Lora: Meat would be good, tonight.)

「Ah, you are thinking about meat.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, Lora's eyes sparkled.

「That is amazing!! You probably have a fairy's blessing. Next time, try looking it up at the library.」(Lora)

When Haruto heard the word "fairy's blessing", he tilted his head. He has never heard that term before.

「What is it?」(Haruto)

「About that, I don't quite know what it is myself except for that it's something like a special ability. You were able to receive the fairy's blessing because you are capable. By the way, I have a money-making blessing. I can smell the scent of

profit.」(Lora)

Haruto had gotten used to this unusual world and he wasn't the less bit surprised to hear about fairies.

「My second question. Do you wish to return home?」(Lora)

Being troubled, Haruto scratched his head and then thought about how he would answer the question.

「Ah, sorry. It is only natural that you would want to return. That was insensitive of me.....」(Lora)

Lora interpreted Haruto's silence as him being anger at her.

「No, it is fine. I not mad. Certainly, one would wish to return if one could. But, I don't really have a reason to return.」(Haruto)

Hearing an unexpected answer, Lora's eyes opened wide.

「Eh, What do you mean? But does that not mean you won't be able to meet your mother or father, anymore?」(Lora)

「Well you see..... both my parents die when I was 5 years old.」(Haruto)

Lora showed a dumbfounded expression. It is no surprised as she was told this without warning. In Lora's case, it was obvious that she became a beggar after her parents' death, but Haruto's confession was just too sudden.

「All 4 of my grandparents have passed away from illness. I have no siblings nor any other family members. That is way, I have no reason to return.」(Haruto)

For a while, the silence continued. The one to break the silence was Lora.

「Heavy,」(Lora)

「It is nothing compared to your hardships. My parents passed away when I was still a child, thus, I'm not particularly sad.」(Haruto)

「No, no, is that not all the more reason why? The memories of my parents have remained in my heart. Does Haruto-san not have something like that? In my case, I still have a grandfather on my mother's side.....」(Lora)

When did it become a contest about who's story was more tragic? Eventually, it ended with both sides admitting each story had their fair share of hardships.

「Well, we both talked about our circumstances, so thanks for sharing Lora.」(Haruto)

「Yes, likewise. I may be incompetent but please take care of me.」(Lora)

The two of them shook hands. For here onwards, they end up relying on one

another on countless occasions. This was the beginning of the moment that their story together began.

=====

Expenses:

Lora (*purchase price*): 2.5 Million

Hot Water: 300

Food: 1,000

Remaining Balance: 850,600

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 7: Future Planning

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第7話 今後の方針
Chapter 7 – Future Planning

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「By the way, Haruto-san,」 (Lora)

「Huh, what is it?」 (Haruto)

After their mutual handshake ended, Lora had something to say.

「That soap thing is amazing. Were you the one who made it, Haruto?」 (Lora)

「Yup, it is not difficult to make and the ingredients are cheap & few.」 (Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto's reply, Lora had an astonished expression.

「Seriously! I was almost certain that it was some high priced item. It is easy and comfortable to use, unlike bubble-berry, this would sell well.」 (Lora)
Lora has a money-making based blessing. She was also the daughter of a company president and from a young age, Lora was raised to succeed her family business. It is reassuring to know that Lora's blessing is in support of the soap business idea.

「As expected, I had a feeling you would think so. I also thought of marketing the soap.」 (Haruto)

「Really! I have studied the basic's of business management so I might be able to help!」 (Lora)

Lora happily says this. She is glad to have discovered a job she could do.

「Of course, I will be putting you to work.」 (Haruto)

「Let's hurry,「before that.」」 (Lora)

Haruto interrupts Lora.

「We have to go buy you some clothes. It will be troublesome if you always have to wear mine.」(Haruto)

Haruto was smiling as he said this.



「Thank you very much; however, it would be alright even if I didn't have such nice clothes as these. I'm a slave. It is okay if the clothes were much more worn out. If Haruto wished it, being nude.....」(Lora)

As Lora said this, a half second later she blushed. Haruto has gradually gotten used to Lora's jokes and dismissed her nonsense.

「Purchasing worn-out clothes would be a waste. Besides, you and I will be doing it for a long time. Don't worry about it. Anyhow, 10,000 Doraria is not much compared to 2.5 million Doraria.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, Lora's face turned bright red.

「W-was that a marriage proposal?! Please, let me think about it.」(Lora)

「You are mistaken.」(Haruto)

Haruto gave an immediate reply.

「By the way, Haruto-san. Why not try visiting the library?」(Lora)

「Ah, you mean the matter about investigating my blessing?」(Haruto)

As the saying goes, it is best to strike while the iron is hot. It would be better to hurry up and get the investigation over with.

「You're right. Shall we get going?」(Haruto)

Lora showed a blank expression as Haruto said this.

「The thing is, 2nd-class and 3rd-class citizens are not allowed into the library because they have no tax liability. Therefore, is it alright for me to wait at the inn until you return?」(Lora)

Without any liabilities, a person does not have any privileges. It indeed makes sense. Haruto understood it, but suddenly a question arose.

「Is it alright for foreigner(s) to enter?」(Haruto)

When Haruto was still a foreigner, he had gone to the library along with Maria. However, foreigners are basically not obligated to pay taxes.

「The library in Clarice is a landmark that foreigner come to see. You see, 10% of the foreigners that visit this country come to see the library.」(Lora)

Haruto recalls hearing that Clarice has the biggest library in all of the City-State Union. And thus, the country makes money off of the people who come to study there.

「Oh, now I get it. Sorry, I got off topic. So you're planning on returning to the inn, huh? On your way back, can you get me olive oil, salt, and collect some ash? The amount of olive oil to ash should be equal to a 3 to 1 ratio; and as for salt, 1 bag will be enough.」 (Haruto)

Haruto hands Lora 30,000 Doraria.

「Alright, understood. Perhaps, are these the ingredients for soap?」 (Lora)

What Lora heard piqued her curiosity. Certainly, it is surprising to know that something made from ash, oil, and salt can have the same effect as bubble-berry.

「Well, there isn't time today so I will make tomorrow.」 (Haruto)

「I see. Then, as a slave, I will go carry out my first task.」 (Lora)

Lora runs off in the blink-of-an-eye. She was as fast as ever.

「Now then, shall I go and get this over with.」 (Haruto)

As Haruto muttered this, he made his way to the library.



Like last time, Haruto checked in at the reception desk but this time around he presented his citizenship registration card.

He made his way over to the bookshelf categorized under blessings. Haruto scans the bookshelf. Of the many volumes of books, he chose a few that appeared to be helpful.

- What Is A Blessing? A Complete Guide On The Know Hows of 『Blessings』!!
- Introduction to Blessings That Even A Monkey Can Understand
- A Modern-day Reference of Known Blessings (picture book)

He chose those three books. In this world, like how the law of mathematics applies to Japan, blessings are a part of this world. The books in this world have similar titles to the books in Haruto's homeworld. For some reason, seeing these titles, it felt nostalgic to him.

First off, Haruto picks up 『Introduction to Blessings That Even A Monkey Can Understand』 and 『What Is A Blessing (etc)』. Unlike the title, the books are fairly

thick.

A short while later, Haruto closed the books. Although it claims that even a monkey could understand it, the book was bulky and filled with technical terminology. He gave up on trying to understand everything and just read the parts that seemed important.

To summarize the contents of the books.

- The proper name for blessing(s) is 『Fairy's Blessing』, or 『Fairy's Affection』.
- Blessing are innate, or otherwise, it is unknown at to how one is acquired.
- 1/10,000 people have a blessing.
- Although, most are unless. They require a lot of effort and are simple things like x-ray vision and being able to bend a spoon.
- There is no clear distinction between blessings. Simply put, it is an amazing power.
- The activation method varies from person to person and the number of times it can be used also varies from person to person.
- Incidentally, why is it fairies are involved? That is because, in the City-State-Kingdom-Empire, they believe it is the work of fairies. By adding two and two together, the mysterious power and the mysterious fairies, it was the only thing they could think of to explain the phenomenon.
- To sum it up, nobody knows.

Haruto wanted to voice his complaint to the person who stated that this introducing book is something even a monkey could understand. The book was not the least bit useful, thus, Haruto stopped reading it and opened the picture book. He finds the section under ~hearing~ and beings to read.

Amazing hearing; the ability to hear sounds from far away and being able to notice an off-key note, able to hear a sound 1 kilometer away, never forgetting something that was heard and other various types E.P.S. like abilities. Haruto skims the text. Unfortunately, there is no information about Haruto's ability under the section "hearing". He calms down and rethinks his ability.

(If I recall, the words are being automatically translated in my head as I have a

conversation. In other words, the meaning is being deciphered in my head. I am hearing the other person's thoughts..... if I think about it, is that not a brain (mind) ability rather than a hearing ability?)

Haruto searches for his ability but discovered nothing. While looking under the "senses category", he comes across the entry labeled "thought". Haruto decides to investigate the entry under "thought".

- Langauge blessing..... able to freely converse in others languages. Reported number of cases, 30 people.
- Power of Words blessing..... able to comprehend the truth behind words. While they can understand the intent behind words, if the person doesn't understand the language, inconsistencies can arise. Those with developed abilities can recognize the meaning behind written characters. Reported cases, 5 people.
- Mind-heart blessing..... able to understand another person's thoughts. The ability allows a person's intentions to be deciphered. Those with developed abilities are able to understand another person's deepest thoughts. Reported cases, 3 people.

Haruto's power resembles these 3 abilities. If he has only one ability, it would mostly likely be the "power of words blessing". But, it is also possible that he has the "mind-heart blessing".

Now that he has an idea of what his blessing could be, Haruto decided to return. By the time he exited the library, it was dark out. He power-walks back to the inn.



Upon his return to the inn, Haruto heard the voices of Lora and Maria.

「How is this done?」 (Maria)
「Let me have a look..... ah, you are supposed to subtract this part. Once the equation is set up the rest is easy.」 (Lora)
「You're right!! Lora-oneechan you are amazing!!」 (Maria)
「Not at all, this is a simple arithmetic equation.」 (Lora)

The two seem to be getting along.

「Hey! Lora, I'm back.」 (Haruto)

When Haruto called out to the two, while making a big commotion, the two girls rushed over to him.

「Haruto-san, welcome back. Would you like dinner? Would you like a bath prepared? Or is it, would you like..... me, *ouch!!*」 (Lora)

Haruto playfully hits Lora on the top of her head, causing her to hang her head in disappointment.

「Meany?! At least let me finish my sentence!!」 (Lora)

「Then, should I just ignore you? Be thankful for the “tsukkomi (joke assist)”！」 (Haruto)

Haruto disregards Lora, who is looking up at him with a sour expression, he goes to talk to Maria.

「Were you studying with Lora?」 (Haruto)

「Yup, Lora-oneechan is amazing!」 (Maria)

Maria says this with a delighted expression, causing Lora to make a bashful expression.

「That is right, didn't you say something about not 『crying over spilled milk』?」 (Haruto)

「『things can't be undone』」 (Lora/ Maria)

Lora and Maria thought at the same time.

「I see, thank you.」 (Haruto)

Upon Haruto's expression of gratitude, the two girls showed a bewildered expression.

「What do you mean by,『things can't be undone』?」 (Lora)

Expressing her curiosity, Lora asked Haruto about it.

「It is nothing, just a little blessing experiment. For now, let's get something to eat. Maria, what do you plan on doing?」 (Haruto)

When Haruto awaits her reply, Maria response with a grin and a giggle.

「Maria has already had dinner. Lora-oneechan, I'll see you later.」 (Maria)

Maria waves them goodbye. Haruto sense that perhaps there was something

more to her exaggerated gesture. In the first place, they are simply living under the same roof, nothing more.

Haruto and Lora took a seat and then ordered their meal.

「Do you mind telling me what that eccentric behavior moments ago was about?」

「Eccentric behavior..... it's your imagination.」 (Lora)

Gradually, Haruto's reserve towards Lora became lost. They somewhat got along, at the very least he wasn't dissatisfied with her.

「About my blessing investigation, I narrowed it down to 3 possible blessings and now I have a better understanding of my blessing.」 (Haruto)

「Really. As there are a lot of people around, please tell me more about your blessing when we return to our room, okay.」 (Lora)

Certainly, there are quite a number of other people around. It would be careless to speak about one's blessing with so many people present. Haruto reflected on his carelessness.

A short while later, their dishes are brought out. The two of them continued conversing as they ate their meal.

「Haruto-san, I have purchased the items you had requested. I'm looking forward to tomorrow's performance.」 (Lora)

「Ah, I had a feeling you would bring that up.」 (Haruto)

As he answered Lora, he noticed that she had already finished eating. Haruto rushes to finish his meal.

When the two returned to the inn, they saw Hannah. Hannah rushed over to speak to Haruto when she had noticed him.

「Haruto-san, will you be needing hot water; I can have it prepared now?」 (Hannah)

「Yes, please.」 (Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, Hannah goes to the backyard to prepare the hot water.

「Shall I wash your back?」 (Lora)

「Shut it, you moron!」 (Haruto)



After washing his body, Haruto goes back to his room and saw Lora who was sitting in a chair waiting for his return. Haruto goes to take a seat in a chair. (T/N:

there should only be one chair, strange)

「Now then, please continue about your blessing.」(Lora)

Lora gets right to the heart of the conversation. Haruto informed her about the blessing “power of words”.

「I see, the blessing “power of words”..... I have heard of it. It is a fairly rare blessing. You should not carelessly speak about it.」(Lora)

Lora warns him. Haruto didn't doubt her and obediently follows Lora's advice.

「Afterwards..... we will be starting a soap business, correct?」(Lora)

「Ah, that is the plan. However, I don't quite know how to go about it. I would like to have your input.」(Haruto)

After Haruto asked her this, Lora thought about it for a little while before answering.

「In any case, we should sell it at a street stall and it would be quite profitable to have a contract with the inn & restaurant. But, we need to be able to mass produce it..... what about funds?」(Lora)

「About 800,000.」(Haruto)

Hearing Haruto's response, Lora showed a subtle reaction.

「800,000 huh..... Haruto-san. So, do you have any means of mass producing the soap?」(Lora)

Haruto took a moment to think it over a bit. To mass produce the soap, he would need a bigger pot. There is also the need for ingredients and firewood. He might need to hire employees as well.

「This might be difficult.」(Haruto)

「Really..... what about taking a loan.」(Lora)

Haruto frowned at Lora's remark. He doesn't have a high opinion of debts (loan). Besides, this country doesn't have a bankruptcy policy. In the worst case, he would end up as a slave.

「The idea of taking on a debt is unpleasant and I don't have any collateral.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's response, she pointed to herself and replied.

「Do you not have some collateral right here?」(Lora)

「Ah? What are you saying.....」(Haruto)

「I am worth 2.5 million; therefore, you should be able to borrow 2.5 million. It is alright, I haven't gone mad.」(Lora)

「That is not the problem.」 (Haruto)

Even if she was his slave, Haruto was against the idea of using Lora as collateral because if he wasn't able to pay back the money, she would be sold to a brothel.

「Don't worry about it. This was a body you yourself had saved.」 (Lora)

After he went to the trouble of helping her, Haruto is trouble over having Lora being sold again. The way things ended up, his efforts might go to waste.

「There is no need to go that far. We will just have to start small and build up the money a little at a time.」 (Haruto)

Upon Haruto's response, Lora shakes her head no.

「That is no good. Haruto-san your soap business is a declaration to the bubble-berry business. If you take it slow, you will be crushed by your competitors. That is how businesses are. The reason why I insist that you use me as collateral has nothing to do with my debt to you, Haruto-san. I want to reclaim my family's company from my uncle. Then I want my uncle arrested and thrown into jail. In doing so, my father and mother can rest in peace.」 (Lora)

Certainly, Haruto's soap business would be stealing sales from the Summer's company.

Haruto looked Lora in the eyes. She is serious. Chances are, Haruto couldn't refuse. He sighs.

「Fine, I understand. It can't be helped.....」 (Haruto)

「Thank you very much.」 (Lora)

Lora lowers her head to Haruto.

「Then tomorrow, let us finish up the matter about the soap business and the loan.」 (Lora)

「Right, well, shall we go to bed? So much has happened today, I'm tired out.」 (Haruto)

As Haruto made his way to his bed, he finally noticed it. Where is Lora going to sleep?

「Where are you going to sleep?」 (Haruto)

「About that..... if Haruto-san is alright with it, shall we sleep together?」 (Lora)

Lora blushes. Thinking it was about time for a little revenge, Haruto gave Lora his answer.

「Well then, shall we sleep together?」 (Haruto)

「Eh!?」(Lora)

Lora is surprised. Her face became a flushed red.

「You are always saying it. Besides, I don't want to sleep on the floor and it would leave me with a bad aftertaste if you slept on the floor. Therefore, let us sleep in the same bed.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, Lora's redder face grows a shade brighter.

「I was joking but..... okay. I understand. Let us sleep together.」(Lora)

From this day onwards, the two of them would always sleep together. (T/N: no, they aren't having intercourse, they are just sleeping in the same bed)

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Expense: 40,000

Remaining Balance: 810,000

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 8: Loan

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第8話 借金
Chapter 8 – Loan

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「Haruto-san, please get up.」(Lora)

Haruto awoken to the sound of Lora's voice as her body weight was pressed against him. When he opened his eyes, Haruto saw that Lora was sitting on top of his stomach.

「What are you doing?」(Haruto)

「I'm waking you up. Is it not every man's dream to have a beautiful girl wake them up this way?」(Lora)

「Beautiful girl? That is something a mischief child does. Now hurry and get off me.」(Haruto)

「Alright.」(Lora)

She jumps off Haruto's stomach. As Haruto gets up, he notices there was a broom & dustpan nearby where the bucket & dust cloth was.

「Were you cleaning?」(Haruto)

「Yes, please entrust the cleaning to me.」(Lora)

Haruto silently walked over to the window and traced his finger around the window frame. He showed the dust that was attached to his finger to Lora.

「This is clean?」(Haruto)

「What, are you a mother-in-law!! I understand, I will redo it.」(Lora)

Lora sighs. Once more, she goes to squeeze out the dust cloth in the bucket.

「When you finish cleaning, go wash your face. We will go have breakfast when

you have everything done. Afterward, we will be making the soap.] (Haruto)

「Roger!」 (Lora)

Lora gave a lively reply.



「Next you put in lye.」 (Haruto)

「I see, after the oil, lye is added..... it sure is strange.」 (Lora)

Outside the castle wall, Haruto is heating up a pot with oil and lye mixed in.

「Haruto-san, does everyone in your country make soap?」 (Lora)

「It is nothing like that. When I was 4 years old, I made it with my parents and from then onwards, it became a hobby of mine. This type of soap is far from the kind that is sold on the market. In truth, sodium hydroxide would do better than lye.」 (Haruto)

「In other words, it would make a better quality soap.....」 (Lora)

He puts firewood into the fire as to not let the flames extinguish. It gets rather hot when working around a fire for a long time.

「Haruto-san, here is some water.」 (Lora)

「Thanks. How thoughtful of you.」 (Haruto)

Haruto drinks from the flask that was handed to him. While he drinks from the flask, Haruto recalled that Lora had drank from it also. Finding the matter to be trivial, he wasn't bothered by it.

As he waited for the soap to be completed, Haruto chats with Lora.

「The last step is to add salt.」 (Haruto)

After saying so, Haruto added salt into the pot.

「Haruto-san, is it alright if I ask a question?」 (Lora)

「Sure, I will try to answer your question the best I can.」 (Haruto)

Haruto replied. Although he doesn't know the fine details, since it is his hobby, Haruto has a rough understanding of the topic.

「Why add salt? Is it for seasoning or something?」 (Lora)

Haruto was outright surprised. Naturally, the salt wasn't being used as a seasoning.

「That isn't it!! This isn't cooking! Simply put, making the water salty will cause

the soap to separate. That is why the soap floats to the top.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's explanation, Lora tilted her head in puzzlement.

「I somewhat get it and I somewhat don't.....」(Lora)

「Which is it! Whatever. It is fine even if you don't understand.」(Haruto)

Afterward, the separated soap is collected into 5 bottles and 10 bars. The 10 are left to dry into solid bars of soap. As the area around here is similar to Japan's dry season, it will take about 3 weeks for the soap to fully dry.

When the work ended, Haruto looked up towards the sky. The sun was shining brightly above him.

「Haruto-san, here is a lunch box.」(Lora)

Lora got close to Haruto and handed him a sandwich that was made by Marceau.

「At any rate, even though we spent all that time working, there is only this much..... as expected, to run the business we are going to need a bigger pot and more helpers.」(Haruto)

Being ignorant of how to run a business, Haruto has no choice but to rely on Lora's guidance.

「How much do you think the soap should be sold for?」(Haruto)

Lora showed a slightly troubled expression upon hearing Haruto's question.

「Considering the price of bubble-berry, we should market the soap at an affordable price of around 500.」(Lora)

Upon hearing Lora's opinion, Haruto decided to set the price at 500 Doraria. He found it reassuring to hear the opinion of a specialist.

「Well, shall we return to the inn.」(Lora)

As she said this, Lora stood up.



「Haruto-san please wait here. I will put the soap in our room.」(Lora)

Haruto hands Lora 4 bottles and kept 1 bottle of soap. Lora was puzzled by his actions.

「I promised to sell a bottle to Hannah-san. I must express my gratitude to her.」(Haruto)

Lora consented to what Haruto had said.

「Haruto-san, it seems you know your way around. I get it.」(Lora)

Having separated from Lora, Haruto goes to search for Hannah. Maria and Hannah were out back doing laundry.

「Hannah-san, this is soap. Here you go.」(Haruto)

When Haruto handed over the soap, Hannah made a delighted expression.

「Thank you. I just happen to be in the middle of doing laundry. How much will it be?」(Haruto)

「I plan to market the soap for 500 Doraria, but this time around, I would like you to accept this as a gift to show my gratitude.」(Haruto)

She makes a broad smile.

「Well, thank you. Do take care now.」(Hannah)

「Yes, likewise.」(Haruto)

Haruto smiled as Hannah expressed her gratitude.



「Lora, why are you carrying soap with you?」(Haruto)

After separating from Hannah, this was the first thing Haruto said to Lora.

Although she had gone to put the soap away, Lora was carrying 1 bottle of soap.

「I thought that by bringing this to show them, it would be easier to get a loan.」(Lora)

Says Lora. Haruto consented and they begin to get moving.

After walking for a short while, he doesn't recall having asked from where they are getting a loan.

「Lora, who are we going to borrow money from?」(Haruto)

Lora made a mischief smile upon hearing Haruto's question.

「Haruto-san, it will be from someone you have met once before.」(Lora)

He doesn't recall having met any moneylender. While being puzzled over the matter, they arrive in front of the slave trading company building.

「Hey, Lora. You don't mean to borrow money from.....」(Haruto)

「Yes, from Wujek·Malthus.」(Lora)

Certainly, that person does have the eyes of a debt collector. However, Wujek is a person who manages a slave trading company. Although, it is true that the slave trade company is run by the government. In other words, Wujek is a civil servant. It is not certain that he will lend them money. Haruto listens to what Lora has to say.

「Haruto-san, are you aware of how this county's system is run; you see, the input of influential merchants weighs heavily on politics in Clarice. That is why public services in Clarice are run by merchants and shopkeepers. Wujek·Malthus is among the top 5 wealthiest merchants in Clarice. This is only natural as he manages a slave trading business.」(Lora)

It seems that it isn't strange for a slave trading company to also deal with loans and debt collection. But still, corruption and politics seem to walk side-by-side.

Somewhat consenting to it, Haruto enters the slave trading company building with Lora. They look around but Wujek is nowhere in sight. Haruto goes over to the clerk and requests to speak with Wujek.

「Ah, Haruto-san. Can you do the negotiations? I am not good at these kinds of things.」(Lora)

Haruto thought it was strange that a merchant's daughter was bad at negotiation's; however, in truth, Haruto's blessing is better suited from such things.

A short while later, Wujek emerged from the interior.

「What, I thought it might be someone, but it just you? So, what is it you need from me?」(Wujek)

While talking business, Haruto uses his blessing.

「I would like you to lend me some money. This person will be the collateral.」(Haruto)

Haruto points to Lora. Wujek responses with a frown.

「Well, you plan to use this person as your collateral at your own convenience..... will there be any prospect of repayment?」(Wujek: [What is this person saying; why use the slave he went to great trouble to help as collateral on a loan? Whatever, I will make a profit anyways.](#))

Wujek doesn't seem to have a problem with the idea but he does find Haruto's behavior to be unusual.

「There is a means to repay the loan. Lora, can you hand that to him.」(Haruto)

Lora hands the bottle of soap over to Wujek.

「This is called soap. It has a similar effect to bubble-berry. I made this. It cost about 300 to create.」(Haruto)

When Haruto said this, Wujek showed a surprised expression for a brief moment but his expression quickly returned back to his poker-face.

「Hmm, may I try it out?」(Wujek: Similar to bubble-berry..... this certainly could be a profitable money-making idea.)

「Ah, consider that my present to you.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto's reply, Wujek disappears inside the interior of the building. A short while later, Wujek returns with a grin on his face.

「I see. Although it is not bubble-berry, the quality is quite high. Is this really 300?」(Wujek: What in the world is this thing? I have never heard of this before.) Wujek appeared to be considerably surprised. Haruto is thankful for having this blessing as being able to understand what the other person is thinking gives him an advantage in negotiations.

「She and I made this together. It cost about 300 to make 1 bottle. The money I borrow from you will be used to prepare a facility to cheaply mass produce the soap. So how about it, will you lend me the money?」(Haruto)

Haruto was direct with his question. Wujek's eyes lit up as when he heard Haruto say this.

「Ah, I see. You don't seem to be lying. Alright, I will finance you the money. How about..... 5 million, will that be enough?」(I don't mind lending you 7 or even 10 million.)

Next, Haruto and Lora were the ones who were surprised. Lora at best thought they would get at least 2.5 million; however, they got double what she has anticipated.

「Hey, are you sane? I'll say it again, Lora will be the collateral.」(Haruto)

Haruto repeats his previous statement, but Wujek merely laughs and say,

「Haha, of course I'm sane. With what you are planning to sell, the debt can be paid back. Oh yeah, I could lend you some land. You will have to build a factory, right. Ah! In exchange, you could use yourself as collateral. How about it?」(Wujek: This guy seems to have merit. At worst, information can always be extracted from a slave.)

This person seems to be sinister to the core.

「Why are you so willing to finance me the loan? What are your intentions?」(Haruto)

Haruto directly asks this of Wujek. Even if the person doesn't speak, Haruto's blessing will provide an answer.

「Simple. It is in the interest of the nation of Clarice. Recently, there has been excessive amounts of goods being imported from the east and as a result, too much money is leaving the City-State Union and Clarice. With the soap you are planning on selling, the amount of money leaving the country would decrease. That is why I am willing to finance your business. As such, my backing you will strengthen my position in Clarice.」 (Wujek: furthermore, this person's business will eventually be successful. The more this he borrows, the better, whether is be 2.5 million or 5 million.)

Either way, it doesn't seem to be a trick. Anyhow, Wujek seems to have a high opinion of him.

Behind him, Lora pulls on Haruto's sleeve. She whispers something into his ear.

「It is alright, I don't smell anything bad. I believe it is alright to receive money from here.」 (Lora)

Lora's profit (money) sensing blessing doesn't detect anything wrong. It seems alright to brazenly accept Wujek's offer. At any rate, it won't make a difference as to whether Haruto borrows 2.5 million or 5 million.

「Understood. I will accept your offer.」 (Haruto)

When Haruto say this, Wujek took out a pen and paper from inside his clothes.

「I thought you would say that. This here will be the loan contract. I recommend you look over it carefully.」 (Wujek)

Haruto carefully reads over the contract before letting Lora read over it.

「Haruto-san, it doesn't particularly seem suspicious.」 (Lora)

Wujek showed a strained smile. It is quite pitiful that they still doubt him.

Haruto signs the loan contract. Wujek safely places the signed paper inside his cloth, close to his bosom.

「Tomorrow, stop by here in the morning. I will show you the plot of land that will be lend to you and I 'll give you some advice. Now, take care.」 (Wujek)

「I didn't think you would be this generous. Likewise, take care.」 (Haruto)

Haruto shakes hands with Wujek. This was the time that the two became business associates.



「Hey, how are you holding up?」(Lora)

After having left the slave trading building, Lora mutters this.

「Well, it isn't like you did anything.」(Haruto)

Haruto says this with a bitter smile on this face.

「Umm, are you not the person who is trying to sell me off, you must have been nervous or stressed.」(Lora)

Certainly, if she puts it that way, it would seem so. Haruto had bought Lora yesterday. Because of how hectic these past few days have been, Haruto's perception of reality had become unusual.

「That reminds me, do you know the location of the bathhouses in this country?」(Haruto)

「Yes, there is a total of 5 bathhouses here. What about it?」(Lora)

Without interest, Lora replied to Haruto's question.

「In my country, it was normal to take a bath every day. These days I have merely been wiping my body with hot water and my patience has reached its limit.」(Haruto)

「Everday? The people who live in Clarice (and other City-States, as well as the kingdom to the south), only rich people can bathe every day. Haruto-san, your country is amazing.」(Lora)

Lora looks up at Haruto as she said this. Haruto nods.

「That is right. Do you know of the cheapest place? I would also like you to teach me the bathing etiquette.」(Haruto)

「Okay. For now, let us put away the loan contract. I'm am concerned so, can we purchase a safe? I know just the right shop to get one from.」(Lora)

She is right, they will need a place to store their future valuables. Haruto gives his approval and they buy a small yet sturdy safe.

「Come on, we have purchased the safe, let's hurry to a bathhouse.」(Haruto)

Haruto urges Lora to get going. They return to the inn to get a towel and change of clothes before going to the bath house.



The bathhouse was quite spacious. Perhaps he was early as Haruto was the

only guest present. It costed Haruto 10,000 Doraria to use the bath.

Lora informed Haruto about this world's bath etiquette. It wasn't much different from the Japanese bath etiquette. Basically, they are not allowed to bring in their own items, and they must purchase 1 bubble-berry.

Haruto whisks the bubble-berry and rubs it on his body.

「Haruto-san, shall I wash your back for you?」 (Lora)

He turns his head and sees Lora standing there in the nude. As soon as he saw her naked body, Haruto's face turned red.

「H-hey! Why are you here!!」 (Haruto)

「What do you mean? This is a mixed bath. Did I forget to mention it?」 (Lora)

Of corse, she never told him. Lora had set Haruto up.

With a broad grin on her face, Lora approached Haruto. Seeing his perplexed expression, Lora wanted to tease him more.

「Besides, it is a slave's duty to wash their owner's body. Hey, give me your towel.」 (Lora)

Lora snatches away Haruto's towel and then begins to wash his back.

「Does it feel good?」 (Lora)

By chance, Lora's remark startled Haruto. He was reminded of the fact that Lora is female.

「*Haha*, thanks. I can wash the rest myself.」 (Haruto)

Upon him saying so, Lora obediently returns his towel. As expected, she wasn't going to go that far.

Having finished washing their body, Haruto and Lora go to soak in the bathtub. Although Haruto tries to put some distance between himself and Lora, Lora immediately closed the space between them.

「Hey now, if you keep this up, I really will attack.」 (Haruto)

Haruto silently whispers.

「Oh no, I'll be assaulted.....」 (Lora)

Lora's face became bright red and she falls silent. As Haruto has learned, being on the offensive is better than running away.

「At any rate, I have borrowed money. A large amount at that. It will be terrible

if I can't pay it back.」(Haruto)

Haruto laughs as Lora silently sat there.

「Yep. But it will be alright. You will surely be able to return it.」(Lora)

The topic changed. Although her face was still red, she gave a response to Haruto.

「Your face is beet red. Perhaps, you should get up?」(Haruto)

Haruto grins as he points out the fact to Lora.

「N-no, it isn't that.」(Lora)

Lora had dug her own grave.

「I'm mistaken? So, you're not feeling faint because of the bath?」(Haruto)

「.....Haruto-san, you meanie.」(Lora)

As they bathe in the tub, Haruto continues to tease Lora.

=====

Income: 5 Million

Expense: 20,000 (purchase of safebox)

Debt: 5 Million

Total Remaining Balance: 5.79 Million

(Actual) Assets: 790,000

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 9: Plot of Land

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第9話 土地
Chapter 9 – Plot of Land

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「Haruto wake up, it's morning.」(Lora)

Haruto awakens to the sound of Lora's voice and opens his weary eyes.

「Ah, morning. Wait, why are you dressed like that!」(Haruto)

Lora is in her undergarments. She jiggles her small breasts, held up by a white bra, upon Haruto taking notice of her appearance.

「Yesterday was hectic so I wasn't wearing one. How does it look on me?」
(Lora)

Lora looks Haruto in the eyes as she asks this, their face was not more than 10 cm apart. Her lovely red eyes (iris) align with Haruto's eyes and her ruby-red hair was close enough to cover his nose. Because she has been bathing recently, there was no unpleasant smell coming from her.

「Well, now that I've gotten a closer look, your breast are quite splendid.」
(Haruto)

Perhaps, they are a B~C cup. Although they are on the small side, one must take into account that she is about 12 years old. Lora has some great future prospects.

「Where do you think you're looking!!」(Lora)

Lora blushes and conceals her chest.

「You were the one who showed them to me.」(Haruto)

Haruto makes a wry smile.

They get out of bed and Haruto tells Lora to get dress. As she puts on her clothes, Haruto moves over to the window to check for dust. There was no dirt. It seems Lora reflected on yesterday's event and did a proper cleaning.

「Haruto-san, how was it?」(Lora)

As she asked him, her face was slightly red.

「What do you mean?」(Haruto)

「My.....body,」(Lora)

Hearing her say it so upfront, it caused Haruto to turn red. Although he is fairly adept at teasing her, Haruto is not good with giving her a direct answer.

「Errr, it isn't bad.」(Haruto)

「Really? I'm glad.」(Lora)

A short while later after giving her a reply, an awkward mood followed. Haruto couldn't bear it anymore and changes the topic.

「We are supposed to meet up with Wujek in the afternoon, yes; how much time do we have until then?」(Haruto)

「Ah, right. Are you planning to make more soap? I don't think there will be any disadvantages if you do decide to make more.」(Lora)

「I see. Then, I will.」(Haruto)

Haruto replied.



The sun is shining overhead as Haruto and Lora find themselves in front of the slave trading building.

「Perhaps, we are too early?」(Haruto)

「Maybe, but that shouldn't be a problem. We can wait.」(Lora)

Upon opening the door, Haruto heard an angry and pleading voice. There seems to be some sort of dispute.

「Please, I'm begging you. Give me 1 month, no, another week. I will definitely return it.」(man)

「Impossible. How long do you plan to extend the deadline? I can't wait anymore.

As stated by the contract, I'm allowed to seize the collateral.」(Wujek)

The sound of Wujek speaking in a low voice can be heard.

「No, please no. Take only me! Spare my wife and daughter!!」(man)

「Stop with your foolish talk. You were the one who used your family as collateral. Don't worry. You will also become a slave alongside them. Anyhow, this was the result of your failure.」(Wujek)

「I.....」(man)

The man breaks down and cries. Wejuk orders his subordinate to take the man away.

「Hey, Rusk (ラスク), seize that collateral. It would be troublesome if it escapes.」(Wujek)

「Understood.」(Rusk)

Rusk, a large man, slightly bowed to Wujek. Wujek's subordinates passed by Haruto and Lora.

「.....」(Lora)

「.....」(Haruto)

The silence continued for a little while longer.

「Haruto-san.」(Lora)

「What is it?」(Haruto)

「Let us made it succeed.」(Lora)

「Yeah.」(Haruto)

The two renew their purpose.

「Oh, it is you. You should have spoken up. If you had said something sooner, no one would have to have listened to that guy's blabbering.」(Wujek)

Wujek approached them with a smile. Haruto and Lora couldn't see it as anything but a devil's smile.

「No need to be so tense. They aren't going to die by just being put in a brothel or coal mine, right? As long as the debt is return, nothing bad will happen.」(Wujek)

Lora hid behind Haruto as Haruto stared at Wujek.

「Well, considering your business, you should have conducted this a bit more inside. It's scary. Is that, Rusk, guy a dangerous person?」(Haruto)

Wujek shrugs his shoulders.

「I understand. I'll be more careful from now on. And, Rusk isn't that bad of a guy. It's not good to judge people base on their appearance. He is a mercenary that I have employed. Although he has a grim expression (face), the person has a fondness for children.」 (Wujek)

Rusk is Wujek's bodyguard. It is quite fiendish of Wujek to be the type of person who would catch child while being protected by someone who loves children.

「About the land you're going to lend me, may I hear the details.」 (Haruto)

Haruto gets right to the point, causing Wujek to make an evil smile.

「Ah, that place is first-class. I am willing to lend it to you for 3 months, free of charge. Afterward, you will have to pay rent.」 (Wujek)

Wujek walks outside of the slave trading building. Haruto and company hurry after him.

After advancing through the main street, Wujek came to a stop.

「Here is the place. This plot of land was seized not too long ago. The location here is prime real estate.」 (Wujek)

The building is made of wood and is fairly large. Certainly, there is a lot of pedestrian traffic but whether that is good for business is another matter. However, something feels off about it.

「Why did the previous shop went under?」 (Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto's response, Wujek made a broad grin.

「The previous owner was involved with tax evasion, therefore, they were crushed.」 (Wujek)

Wujek was smiling, *『it was my doing,』* was heard but nothing more.

「Well, this place's personal history is unimportant. Come, hurry on inside.」 (Wujek)

As Wujek suggested, Haruto and Lora entered the building.

「It is dirty but we should be able to clean it up.」 (Lora)

「Yeah, we'll get it done.」 (Haruto)

The room inside had two doors. They open the door on the left.

「It is spacious. However, it's rather gloomy.」 (Haruto)

「This was used as a storehouse. A lot of goods can be stored here.」 (Wujek)

Wujek explains. At that time, something passed by Haruto's feet.

「Awh!」 (Haruto)

An unpleasant sound is heard. A boot is lifted and the corpse of a dead black bug is revealed.

「Ah, got it. You can simply wash that away later.」 (Wujek)

「.....」 (Haruto)

Haruto was too shock to give a reply.

They leave the storehouse and then go through the second door.

「What was this room used for?」 (Haruto)

「This was the parlor. Bribes were made here.」 (Wujek)

As to whether or not there were bribes taken here, this does seem to be a parlor room.

「Haruto-san, let's move onto the next room. We can't stay forever at the inn now. Haruto-san!」 (Lora)

「You're right.....」 (Haruto)

「Please, don't sour the mood.」 (Wujek)

They look over the other (general) rooms and then left the building.

「Next up is the factory's location. It is a little ways from here; so, do you have enough time?」 (Wujek)

「.....ah, I have plenty of time.」 (Haruto)

Wujek shows a wry smile in response to Haruto's low tension reply.

「There is no need to be so down.」 (Wujek)



They make a u-turn to the slave trading building.

「Wait here, I will call for a dragon-carriage.」 (Wujek)

Saying so, Wujek left.

「Hey, Lora. A dragon-carriage is a cart pulled by a dragon, right?」 (Haruto)

Haruto recalls the first day that he was transported here. As this is a parallel world, it isn't strange to see a dragon.

「Yes, yes it is. Haruto, was there no dragon-carriages where you are from?」 (Lora)

「To begin with, something like a dragon was a work of fiction.」 (Haruto)

「Eh! Really?」 (Lora)

Lora raised her voice in surprise. In this world, dragons are fairly popular as they

are convenient.

「Which is better, a normal carriage or a dragon-carriage?」(Haruto)

「Well, the speed is different. A dragon-carriage is 3-times faster than a normal carriage. And, it can carry 3-times more luggage. However, they are terribly expensive.」(Lora)

In other words, Wujek who owns a dragon-carriage is a very wealthy person. Rumor has it, that person holds a considerable fortune. Haruto thought that one day, he wanted to be rich enough to own his very own dragon-carriage.

「Sorry for the wait.」(Wujek)

Wujek reappears. Behind him was a woman holding a bridle, connected to two dragons pulling a carriage.

「This woman is Pudding (プリン). She is a mercenary employed under me.」(Wujek)

「Salutation, my name is Pudding~.」(Pudding)

Haruto looks at the woman named Pudding. Her hair is pink, she is average height and she has a pretty face. For some reason, she seems familiar.

「This person is Rusk's younger sister.」(Wujek)

Hearing so, Haruto could see the similarity in her jaw-line (mouth).

「My brother resembles my mom, while I take after my dad.」(Pudding)

Their mother must have a stern expression. Anyhow, it is the opposite version of Maria's parents.

「Enough with the chit-chat and get on already. The place is about 20 minutes from here.」(Wujek)

After saying so, Haruto and Lora boarded the dragon-drawn-carriage.



Five minutes after the dragon-carriage begun moving, Haruto started feeling nauseous.

「I'm feeling queasy.....」(Haruto)

「Are you alright?」(Lora)

Being concerned, Lora peeked at Haruto's face. His complexion was as white as soap.

「Hey now, if you vomit in here, I will have you pay the fee for the clean-up. You

better not vomit here. Vomit out the window.」(Wujek)

Wujek frowns as he tells this to Haruto.

「Ah, it is fine now, I'm.....」(Haruto)

Haruto smiled as he replied, although he was clearly pushing himself.

Another, five minutes later.

「Haruto-san..... would you like to lay down? I'll lend you my lap. My thigh might give you some relief.」(Lora)

「.....I'll take you up on your offer.」(Haruto)

Haruto places his head on top of Lora's lap. It has been awhile since he has felt the warmth of another person, after having been orphaned. Although, this is the first time he has rested on the lap of a girl. Just a bit, Haruto felt a little relief.

「Haruto-san, we are half way there. Please, hold on.」(Lora)

「*Halfway there.....*」(Haruto)

Lora's cheering had the opposite effect.

And thus, 10 minutes after.

「*Yeah!!!*」(Haruto)

Upon the dragon-carriage's stop, Haruto exited the carriage and took a deep breath while outside. The air felt great. All of the unpleasant feelings that he felt left his body.

「So where is the land you will be lending me?」(Haruto)

Haruto looks around. There is hardly any people around. This area is probably on the outskirts of Clarice.

「Right there, see that building.」(Wujek)

Wujek points to a run-down building. This is the land that will be lent to Haruto but in truth, there isn't much here.

「Although that building is falling apart, you should be able to do something with the foundation. This is included in the set. I am willing to lend you this land for 1 year, fee of charge.」(Wujek)

Even if this is on the outskirts of the city, this spacious amount of land would be very expensive. Not to mention, this land will be lend to them for 1 year without rent. Should Haruto not express his gratitude?

「Thanks. Honestly, this is helpful.」(Haruto)

「What are you saying, of course, you will be returning the favor afterward.」
(Wujek)

Wujek broadly grins and laughs. Haruto shows a mutual expression as the two of them shake hands.

「Uck.....what evil looking expressions.」 (Lora)

Lora instinctively mutters.

「Enough already, shall we depart.」 (Pudding)

Pudding made a wry smile as she called out to the two.

「Not yet, we still have to check out the building.」 (Haruto)

As he said this, Haruto faced in the direction of the building.

「You had better not. It is dangerous as the place is falling apart. There is no need to worry as I have a written document about the place back at my office.」

(Wujek)

Wujek stops Haruto.

「Aside from the building, I would like to confirm the water source.....」 (Haruto)

Haruto objects, He really doesn't want to board the dragon-carriage.

「The resources have already been confirmed.」 (Wujek)

「Haruto-san, please accept your fate.」 (Lora)

「Dammit.....」 (Haruto)

Afterward, Lora and Wujek hurried onto the dragon-drawn-carriage.



「From here onwards, you will be needing workers.」 (Wujek)

The slave trader Wujek stated. Haruto had a bad feeling about what was coming next.

「What do you have in mind?」 (Haruto)

「You can use 2nd-class citizens for cheap labor.」 (Wujek)

「Is that not being hasty.」 (Haruto)

With a grin on his face, Wujek continues the conversation.

「If I hire them, they could steal my method to make soap.」 (Haruto)

Haruto doesn't understand Clarice's social hierarchy. For that reason, he objects to Wujek's idea.

「What do you think, Lora?」 (Haruto)

Haruto asks Lora's opinion as she was recently a 2nd-class citizen of Clarice. Lora

should understand their perspective.

「Certainly.....those people don't quite understand the concept of duty. There is a reason why they have become a 2nd-class citizen.」(Lora)

Hearing Lora say this about 2nd-class citizens was strangely persuasive. As the method to make soap is Haruto's only weapon, on the chance that the method is stolen, it would be a serious affair for Haruto.

「So what do you suggest?」(Haruto)

Haruto had anticipated what Wujek would say.

「How about purchasing our slaves?」(Wujek)

As expected. Haruto and Lora are aware of how much a slave cost. They don't have the extra funds to buy one.

「Don't worry. That time, the child's appearance made her an exception. An average child normally sells for no more than 300,000.」(Wujek)

Making soap doesn't require much skill. Therefore, Haruto was hoping to have children do the manual labor. However, 300,000 is too expensive. If he were to purchase 20 of them, his funds would be used up.

「That is impossible, still too expensive.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's refusal, Wujek's smile broaden.

「To tell you the truth, there is currently a lot of child slaves. Honestly, children don't have much use and they simply pile up expenses. You would be helping out if you did buy them. How about; 100,000 for one? If you by 30 of them, you would still have 2 million remaining. Well, if you don't buy them, they can be sent to a coal mine. How pitiful, they might die right away.....」(Wujek)

Wujek shows a sad expression; although, he probably doesn't feel a bit of sadness.

「Fine..... I will buy them. Anyhow, slaves shouldn't be able to leak information. It should be alright as long as I give them work and kept them fed. Besides, releasing them will only make you more money.」(Haruto)

There is merit in Haruto purchasing the slaves and almost no demerits in not doing so. But, he was troubled by how much Wujek has already done for him. Wujek has lent Haruto land and financed Haruto money. Haruto couldn't really object.

「Thank you for your patronage.」(Wujek)

Wujek shows a delightful smile.

=====

Income: 0

Expense: 0

Debt: 5 Million

Remaining Balance: 5.79 Million

(Actual) Assets: 790,000

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 10: Preparations

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第10話 準備
Chapter 10 – Preparations

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「Haruto-san, please wake up.」(Lora)

As Haruto opens his eyes, he expected to see a similar pattern to follow. And, as he had thought, Lora is hovering near him.

「Ah, morning, hey, why are you not wearing anything!!」(Haruto)
Lora is nude. Haruto's eyes focus on her white skin.

「Because yesterday, I was in my undergarments; today, I thought perhaps Haruto-san is probably tired of seeing me in them. That is why I tried raising the level.」(Lora)

Lora giggles. Although she appears calm, her face is red. Naturally, she is embarrassed being nude.

「I wasn't particularly tired or anything!! Just hurry up and put on some clothes!!」(Haruto)

Haruto's face warped as he shouted this. He has never seen a woman naked. Although Lora is 12 years old, still a child, she has quite a developed body that is fairly close enough.

「Should you not say, 『I will never get tired of seeing your naked body』? Oh my, it is embarrassing to hear it being said out loud.」(Lora)
Lora blushes.

「Whatever! Hurry! Go put some clothes on!!」 (Haruto)

Haruto yells again. In a reluctant state, she begins to put on clothes.

「Haruto-san?」 (Lora)

While dressed in her underwear, Lora calls out to Haruto.

「What is it?」 (Haruto)

As he looked out the window, Haruto replies to Lora.

「Underwear or nude?」 (Lora)

Haruto feels her hands spreading across his back. The window shows a reflection of Lora in her underwear. In a panic, Haruto turns around and gets a complete view of Lora in her undergarments. It was a regretful action.

「Why only two options?」 (Haruto)

「Should you not be more embarrassed!? That.....」 (Lora)

With a reddened face, showing a form more embarrassing than when he saw her naked while being troubled, Haruto gave a reply.

「Well then, underwear.」 (Haruto)

「I understand, Haruto-san. I see, underwear is more erotic than being nude.」 (Lora)

Chances are if he had said 『nude』, the outcome would have been the same.

Having given an appropriate answer, Haruto changes the topic.

「Yup, it is erotic. Now then, put on some clothes as today is going to be busy.」 (Haruto)

There is much to do today. Yesterday, Haruto had placed an order for slaves from Wujek. With his blessing, Haruto had bargain down the price and bought 12 young boys for 10,000 & received 3 young girls as a freebie. They are all healthy and none of them are over 10 years old. Of course, Haruto is not ready to welcome them. For that reason, things have not advance pass the agreement stage as he needs to make preparations. Haruto has to get the factory & run-down building repaired and then decide his new place of residences. Although Wujek suggested that the slaves get to work without having any repairs made, Haruto isn't that much of a fiend to let that happen.

Once more, the factory has to be put into working order. As for the factory, all he really needs is a pot that can be used to boil things and a roof to keep out the

rain. On the other hand, Haruto does need to secure a large supply of olive oil, ash, and a few large pots.

「You're right. My apologies. Let us have the repairs commissioned right away as it could take awhile.」(Lora)

Lora made a serious expression as she suggested this to Haruto. He was thinking the same thing. And thus, with Lora's help, they began their search for a place to commission the needed repairs.



「So, how much will it cost.」(Haruto)

Haruto asked the carpenter (man), Domoor (ドモール).

「Uhh, I can't give you an estimate without seeing it for myself. I have to see what I'm working with, first. You can drop by again in the evening. I should be able to give an estimate by then. By the way, what will it be used for? The plans can change depending on how it is going to be used.」(Domoor)

「For workers.....housing for slaves. For about, 15 people. That is why it needs to be able to keep out the cold and rain. Try to keep the cost as low as you can.」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's reply, Domoor began to ponder something.

「I see, understood. I will keep that in mind.」(Domoor)

The matter about the slaves' lodging has been settled.

「As for the factory, it also needs to be able to keep out the rain. There is no need to do the flooring, just the roof. Fire will be used, so, a structure that will let smoke out it necessary.」(Haruto)

「Understood. Leave it to me.」(Domoor)

Domoor replies with a smile. This man will complete the job reasonably enough. Haruto is glad that he chose to request the job from Domoor.

「Thank you. I will entrust the job to you.」(Haruto)

「Um, have no worries. I will get it done.」(Domoor)

Domoor expressed his gratitude upon Haruto's expression of gratitude.

Haruto leaves the shop along with Lora.

「Well now, that part is done with. Next up is securing the pot. We can try checking out the blacksmith that Wujek recommended.」(Haruto)

The two of them head towards the blacksmith's place. After a short walk, they arrive at a sturdy stone building.

When they opened the door, a hot gust of air blew in their face. It was considerably hot.

「Huh? Who are you, a customer?」(???)

A boorish sounding man appeared. He had an intimidating air about him.

「Are you Bacchus (バッカス)? I have a job for you.」(Haruto)

「I see, have a seat.」(Bacchus)

Haruto sat down in the specified chair. As there wasn't another chair, Lora had to remain standing.

「Well, what do you need made?」(Bacchus)

While listening to Haruto, the man brazenly crossed his legs and smoked his pipe.

Haruto talks about what he had previous thought about on this way over here.

「I want 7 pots, each 1 meter tall.」(Haruto)

Six of the pots will be used for making soap while the last one will be used for cooking. To make everything in one go, a large pot is needed. Haruto had taken into consideration that a child will be using the pot; therefore, a pot 1 meter tall would be suitable. All-in-all, it was a necessary item for the slaves. It would also be good if one of the slaves had cooking experience.

「Hmm, that is alright and all, but what do you plan to use it for?」(Bacchus)

「Manufacturing goods. Please make it as solid as you can.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing Haruto's request, Bacchus stands up.

「Who do you think I am? I'm a craftsman. I will do my job properly. It will cost you 250,000. Come back in 3 months.」(Bacchus)

Despite his appearance, the person has the soul of a craftsman. Haruto pays the 250,000 fee and they exited the shop.

「Scary.....」(Lora)

Lora mutters, after leaving the shop.

「What are you afraid of?」(Haruto)

Being frightened of Bacchus, she had curled herself up. Anyhow, it is only natural to be afraid of Bacchus's intimidating attitude.

「Haruto-san, how is it you're not afraid and are able to converse so fluently with someone you have just met?」(Lora)

「Do you recall how I told you that both my parents are deceased. I grew up while being raised by my relatives, so, I am used to such social differences.」 (Haruto)

While his foster parents (father and mother) were kind, Haruto was rather reserved. He didn't treat his foster parents the same as his real parents. Haruto always took their feelings into consideration. Perhaps, his sudden disappear has caused them trouble.

「Ah, I see.....」 (Lora)

The air became slightly heavy. Being wary of the mood, Haruto was quick to change the subject.

「What now, there is still time before evening?」 (Lora)

「You're right. We haven't secured a supply of olive oil, salt, or ash yet. What to do?」 (Haruto)

Olive oil, salt, and ash are the ingredients needed for making soap. There is no point in securing the equipment without having the ingredients on-hand.

「Umm, know any place where we can buy olive oil and salt in bulk? Although, securing ash will be a problem.」 (Haruto)

「Why will securing ash be a problem?」 (Lora)

Ash is fundamentally waste (trash). Obtaining it is rather simple. Lora couldn't understand how it would be a problem.

「It would be easy to collect ordinary ash but seaweed ash is a better material to use in soap. If it was for personal use then ordinary ash would do but as this will be put on sale, I plan to use ash made from seaweed.」 (Haruto)

Naturally, if he plans to use seaweed ash instead of ash from wood, Haruto needs to get into contact with a fisherman.

「Seaweed.....we would have to go to a fishing village and make a direct request from them. Although, it is already too late in the day. It will have to wait until tomorrow.」 (Lora)

「So, we won't be able to secure the ingredients today..... then, what should we do?」 (Haruto)

「The place (shop) that Wujek lent us could use a good cleaning. We could clean up the parlor room and make it livable.」 (Lora)

If they continue living at the inn, it would eventually become an unexpected

expense. However, if they clean up the parlor, Haruto and Lora could stay there starting tomorrow.

「You're right, that wouldn't do. Shall we spend the evening cleaning the place up?」(Haruto)

The decision was made rather quickly. While holding cleaning equipment, they head towards their shop.

「It sure is dirty. For now, today, we will be focusing on cleaning up the parlor room.」(Haruto)

「Yeah. Cleaning up the warehouse today would take too much time. Let's hurry and get started.」(Lora)

With cleaning tools in hand, Haruto and Lora begin to sweep up the dust. As there is no furniture, it was easy to sweep up the dust.

「Haruto-san, what about the bed? I prefer a single bed that we both can lay on.」(Lora)

「A single bed for 2 sounds good. But, why does it have to be a single bed when 2 beds can be brought instead?」(Haruto)

They continued their conversation while Lora scrubbed the floor and Haruto wiped the windows.

「But Haruto, if it wasn't, you wouldn't be able to embrace me every night.」(Lora)

「Lies. Don't try to gloss over the topic.」(Haruto)

Haruto denies it with a forceful voice.

「It's true. You would also feel up my breast.」(Lora)

He has no memory of doing such things and it left him feeling uneasy.

「Why not? It is warmer that way and it would save us money.」(Lora)

「If you say so. However, it will be a double bed as a single bed is too narrow.」(Haruto)

Having touched her body, Haruto has no choice but to consent to Lora's request. Or, so it seems.

「What is wrong with us being closer together.」(Lora)

「As it is currently the 4th month, the temperature will gradually become hotter. And, I dislike the heat.」(Haruto)

Lora dumps the dust from the dustpan out the window. Haruto finished wiping the windows and squeezed out the rag.

「It is still early in the evening. Shall we go buy a bed?」 (Haruto)



Haruto and Lora headed to a furniture store to buy a bed.

「Haruto-san, this one comes with a closet. Buy this one.」 (Lora)

「You're right. We should buy one bundled with a dresser(s).」 (Haruto)

Because they don't have any furniture, he wanted to purchase a set. Eventually, they ended up buying a closet & dresser, desk, and chairs.

「That bed looks good.」 (Lora)

In the direction Lora is pointing, there is a bed with a pink heart shape sheet cover.

「Idiot, who would buy something like that? We'll be getting a normal bed.」 (Haruto)

Saying so, Haruto goes over and purchases a normal bed with a white sheet cover, Lora made a disappointed expression.

「Thank you very much for your purchase.」 (salesperson)

They are unable to take the furniture with them as furniture is fundamentally heavy.

「Is it alright if I come and pick up the furniture tomorrow morning?」 (Haruto)

Haruto tried asking just in case. Although, this practice is normally acceptable.

「Yes, that is alright. Then please, come back to this store tomorrow morning.」 (salesperson)

The salesperson expressed their gratitude.



Haruto and Lora exited the shop. Upon leaving the store, before Haruto's eyes, the scene of a child receiving an allowance unfolds.

「Lora, here.」 (Haruto)

「Huh? This is..... a silver coin. What is this for?」 (Lora)

She is puzzled by his sudden action. Haruto response with a smile.

「That is your salary for this month. I forgot about it until now.」 (Haruto)

「Haha, I don't particularly need a salary but..... thanks, I'll graciously accept.

That's right! May I use it now?」 (Lora)

Haruto is dumbfounded by how easily Lora switches gear.

「It might be pointless to say this to you but..... it's your money, use it as you please.」 (Haruto)

Upon his response, Lora makes a delightful smile.

「Understood. I'll meet back up with you at Sylph's pavilion.」 (Lora)

After parting ways with Lora, Haruto headed to Domoor's place.

「Oh, you came at a good time. I am preparing the estimate now.」 (Domoor)

Haruto sits down in a chair and listens to what Domoor has to say.

「The building is broken here & there; however, the foundation only needs a little repair. It will cost about 500,000.」 (Domoor)

It was cheaper than Haruto had guessed. He is relieved that the run-down building didn't need to be rebuilt.

「What about the factory?」 (Haruto)

Haruto wanted to hear the estimate for the factory.

「The floor is okay; the roof can be easily fixed for about 1.5 million. In total, the cost of all the repairs will add up to 2 million. Is 400,000 in advance alright with you?」 (Domoor)

Haruto hands over 4 gold coins. A big smile appears on Domoor's face.

「Thank you. Now that I have received the money, I will get to work. Please, come back in 3 months.」 (Domoor)

Fast. This person is quite capable. The timing is similar to when the pots will be ready.

「Okay. Thank you.」 (Haruto)

Haruto thanks the man and then leaves.



「Ah, Haruto-san, have you finished everything up?」 (Lora)

Upon being a few steps away from the entrance, Haruto was greeted by Lora.

「Oh yeah, I've prepared the hot water.」 (Lora)

Lora is as attentive as ever. On a closer examination, her hair appears to be damp. She has probably already washed up.

「Really, thanks. I'll go get the soap, a towel and a change of clothes.」(Haruto)

「There is no need to. It has already been prepared.」(Lora)

The set of items is handed to Haruto. He thanks Lora once more and then goes to wash his body.

After he finished washing up, Haruto bumped into Hannah inside the inn.

「Ah, perfect timing. It has been a week since then. What do you plan to do for tomorrow?」(Hannah)

Incidentally, a week has passed. It was a long yet short week for Haruto.

「I've found a place to stay. I will be moving there.」(Haruto)

Haruto explained the details to her. Hannah showed a disappointed expression when she heard the news.

「I see. It will be lonely without you here. You're welcome to come stay here anytime.」(Hannah)

「Alright, thank you very much for everything. I'm going to go eat at Undine now.」(Haruto)

When Haruto said this, she made a delightful smile.

「Really, I am glad.」(Hannah)

Haruto bids his farewell to Hannah and he goes to have his meal. Afterwards, Haruto and Lora returned to their room.

「This will be the last time we sleep in this room. Well, I barely stayed in this room for more than 3 days.」(Lora)

「Yup. It is already dark, shall we get to sleep. Tomorrow, we will have to carry in the furniture. And then, in the afternoon we can go secure the ash stock.」(Haruto)

Hearing him say this, Lora immediately crawled into bed.

「Understood. We can borrow a dragon-carriage from Wujek-san. Now then, hurry up Haruto-san.」(Lora)

Haruto got into bed as he was told. The lamp is switched off and the two of them stare at the ceiling.

「We will be riding the dragon-carriage for a long period of time; will you be alright?」(Lora)

「I'll manage somehow. Don't worry, I will prepare a barf bag.」(Haruto)

「So, you are assuming you'll vomit..... please don't have lunch.」(Lora)

「Of course, now go to sleep.」(Haruto)

「Yes, good night.」(Lora)

The two of them close their eyes.

=====

Income: 0

Expenses: 1.96 Million (total)

Slaves (1.2 Million), Pot (250,000), Furniture (100,000), Salary (10,000), Repair cost (400,000)

Debt: 5 Million

Remaining Balance: 3.83 Million

(Actual) Assets: -1.17 Million

Other Assets:

16 Slaves

- [ToC](#) -

Chapter 11: Confession

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第12話 2人の商人
Chapter 12 – Two Merchants

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「We will now commence the purge of our enemy!!」 (Haruto)

With a serious expression, Haruto issued this command to Lora. In their hands, they each are holding a broom. This broom is a weapon that will be used against the hidden enemy lurking in the storehouse (warehouse).

「The enemy's war potential is unknown. There are probably at least 30 of them so expect a strong resistance. However, do not falter! It is either us or them!」 (Haruto)

「Haruto-san.....」 (Lora)

「What is it?」 (Haruto)

「They are only cockroaches.」 (Lora)

「Dare not speak their name!」 (Haruto)

Why is it that the two of them are going about exterminating cockroaches? Because it is necessary in order for them to clean up the storehouse. Since the seaweed ash will be delivered to them in a week's time, they must have the storehouse cleaned. However, many roaches are lurking about in the storehouse. That is why Haruto and Lora have decided to exterminate the cockroaches.

「Do you dislike them? I'm okay with them because I used to live in the back alley.」 (Lora)

「Ahh, in the past one of them leaped at me and it..... in my mouth.....」(Haruto)
Haruto suppresses his urge to think about it. Certainly, it has become a trauma for him.

「Now that I think about it, my compulsion from cleanliness might be the result of the fear I have for them.」(Haruto)

Hearing him speak so heartily about it, Lora gave a suitable response.

「I understand. Haruto-san, please don't push yourself. It will be troublesome if you end up vomiting so leave the roach..... those critters to me.」(Lora)

「I'll be counting on you.」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora entered the storehouse together.



The storehouse (battlefield) is dim and dusty. Haruto reached from the light switch but Lora stopped him.

「You should turn on the light when you're ready.」(Lora)

「Understood.」(Haruto)

The two nervously prepared themselves for when the roaches will be revealed.

After a few minutes passed, the two advanced into the storehouse (battlefield). What awaited them inside was the creeping noise belonging to insects. A few minutes later, their nervousness was lifted as the tension Haruto felt was interrupted; at that time, a black shadowy figure passes by Lora's line-of-sight. Lora doesn't miss this chance, she brings down the boom onto it. The cockroach senses that its life is in peril and increases its speed. The speed of the boom that Lora swung down accelerated as it approached the floor. As a result.....

A whacking sound is heard. The roach is caught by Lora's broom; however, it had twisted its body on impact, resulting in the roach's body being wedged in the broom's brush end. Somehow, the cockroach was able to escape from the broom by spreading its wings but as it was flying away, the roach was pushed upwards from below by the broom. Lora had already predicted the cockroach's escape route. The roach that had been pushed upwards ended up clinging onto the broom but that judgment was a mistake. Lora smiles. The broom is rotated

and then is swung against the floor before the roach that had clung to the broom could escape. It is exterminated. This all happened in a span of 5 seconds. The matter of life and death had been decided in an instant.

「Phew, that worked out. I would never have expected it to avoid my attack by turning its body.」(Lora)

Lora looked at the cockroach's plump corpse. Chances are, it had been feeding on the dust in the storehouse.

「Then, while we are on a roll, shall we continue.」(Lora)

Lora cheerfully said to Haruto. Although, despite having gotten rid of that roach, Haruto's still appeared tense.

「I stepped on one.....」(Haruto)

It seems Haruto had stepped on a cockroach. Death had visited him by mere chance.

As such, they continue to exterminate the cockroaches. Lora's broom and Haruto's shoe became wet with blood (bug goo).

「Why must this happen to me?」(Haruto)

Haruto was on the verge of tears. The bottom of his shoes is covered in roach goo. This left him experiencing an indescribable feeling.

After 2 hours, there was a small pile containing 15 cockroach corpses. With a calm expression, Lora tossed the roaches away by the roadside.

Now that the cockroaches had been removed, they proceeded to clean until lunch time.



「We are finally done!! Now this place can be used as a storehouse. All that is left is for us to secure olive oil. Do you know of a good place where we can stock up on olive oil?」(Haruto)

「The Ainsworth company deals in agricultural produces. If I'm not mistake, their head office is a short walk from here.」(Lora)

「Then, should we head there now?」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's suggestion, Lora made a slightly clouded expression.

「I think you should go see Wujek first. The Ainsworth company's top brass,

Brunch·Ainsworth (ブランチ・エインズワ) is Wujek-san's political rival.」(Lora)
Haruto recalls the details about Clarice's self-government. It seems Wujek has many enemies.

「Phew, do you see why I was conflicted?」(Lora)

When doing business, one should at the very least have an understanding of the relationship among fellow merchants. "I should hear what this is about", Haruto thought.

「I don't know the full details but..... Wujek-san is the head of the Kingdom's warring faction while Brunch·Ainsworth is the head of the Empire's armistice faction. In terms of policy, their opinion is a complete 180-degree difference.」(Lora)

Although she claims to not know the detail, there sure is a lot of information and Lora began to use technical terminology. Haruto wasn't able to understand what the Kingdom's warring faction was nor what the Empire's armistice faction was. While he has heard of the Kingdom, he has never heard of the Empire.

「I don't really get it but, Wujek supports the Kingdom's plan to keep fighting while Brunch supports the Empire's plan to stop fighting, correct? First of all, I don't know what the Empire is, can you start from the beginning?」(Haruto)
When she heard Haruto say this, Lora's eyes widened.

「You don't know about the Empire? Oh yeah, you're from another world. It is not surprising. Alright then. I'll tell you about this world's international situation from the beginning」(Lora)



「The Empire is a superpower that borders the Kingdom and the City-State Union. In their golden age, they ruled the whole area from the west to the entire mountain range.」(Lora)

「In other words, the City-State Union and the Kingdom used to be a part of the Empire?」(Haruto)

Lora replies to Haruto's question by nodding.

「That is correct. The Empire began to suffer from internal corruption and their national influence started to decline. 200 hundred years ago, the Germanians (ゲルマニス) rebelled against the Empire and established their Kingdom. The

founding of the Kingdom greatly reduced the Empire's influence in the Kirishia (キリシア) region; as a result, the City-State Union became independent. Are you with me so far?」(Lora)

Haruto confirmed to Lora by nodding. Although it was a simplified explanation, there was no need to go into detail so that was good enough.

「The two countries are hostile towards one another. After the Kingdom had gained independents, the two have gone to war 4 times. The City-State Union's policy is to stay neutral; as such, there is an unconditional rule that states that we should not be too intimately involve with either country.」(Lora)

「I see. The City-State Union isn't a single entity. Is Clarice neutral?」(Haruto)
When she heard Haruto's question, Lora showed a slightly troubled expression.

「That is right..... we are more or less neutral. Nevertheless, within Clarice, there are 3 rival factions. The 1st faction is lead by Wujek-san; they are in favor of the Kingdom. The 2nd faction is lead by Brunch・Ainsworth; they are in favor of the Empire. The 3rd faction is lead by Adonis・Wulfstan (アドニス・ウルフスタン); they are in favor of a natural ceasefire between the two countries.」(Lora)

Again, another person's name emerged, causing Haruto to frown. In truth, memorizing all their names is a pain but it is an essential knowledge that a merchant must learn.

「As the Kingdom's troops advance, they would loot and plunder the Empire's villages and towns. The people that are caught are then sold as slaves to the City-State Union. It just happens that, Wujek-san buys a lot of those slaves. In addition, he has lent quite a fortune to the Kingdom's aristocrats; therefore, Wujek wants them to continue warring and continue winning.」(Lora)
As expected, Wujek is quite a bad person; however, it is only natural for a merchant to devote themselves to making a profit.

「Next, about Brunch・Ainsworth; she earns money by selling wine to the east. If the war continues, she fears that the Empire would lose. And, as most of the fine wine are domestic products of the Empire, Brunch-san fears that the price for obtaining wine will drastically increase if that were to happen. Lastly, Adonis・Wulfstan, the head of the natural ceasefire faction, he produces magic tools and sells them. As the war prolongs, magic stones, the fuel for magic tools will

continue to rise. Nowadays, because of the war, the price for magic stones has gone up and the demand for magic tools has gone down, causing his profits to decrease. Do you understand the premise so far?」(Lora)

Lora looks to confirm Haruto's expression. Haruto nods.

「I get the general idea, thank you. Then, we should go see what Wujek has to say before we meet with Brunch-san. In truth, our actions shouldn't be restricted by him but since I'm indebted to him, it is a matter of courtesy. This could be a chance for us to get along.」(Haruto)

And thus, their plans for the afternoon was decided.



「For some reason, I feel nervous.....」(Lora)

「Why would you be; all you have to do is stand behind me and smile. What is there to be nervous about?」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora are in Ainsworth's reception room. They normally would be turned away without having an appointment; however, with Wujek's letter of introduction, how they were treated changed.

By the way, Wujek had made a wry smile and he did not seem pleased with the matter.

「I thought that perhaps the letter of introducing from Wujek-san was a fake, but this does resemble his handwriting.」(???)

「Really? Is that so, it seems as if you didn't mind being tricked.」(Haruto)

This conversation occurred nearly 1 hour after they were kept waiting. A woman, who appeared to be about 40 years old, entered the room. She wasn't wearing any make-up. Being flustered, Haruto stood up and introduced himself.

「Good evening. My name is Haruto Asuma. I am starting a business in Clarice. I came with Wujek-san's letter of introductions.」(Haruto)

Lora doesn't introduce herself. It is an unspoken rule that a slave should not give their name unless asked.

「I see, I am Brunch·Ainsworth. What is your business with me?」(Brunch: So, this is the person Malthus was talking about in the letter..... Malthus isn't the type of person to carelessly give out introductions. Appearance wise, this person

looks average.)

She is neither wary nor repulsed by Haruto. Being in the clear, Haruto breathed out a sigh of relief.

「For now, this is the product I plan to market.」(Haruto)

Haruto hands over the soap that he had brought. Brunch had a mystified expression on her face as she stared at the produce.

「This is soap. It has the same effect as bubble-berry. The price is 300 Doraria.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing him say this, Brunch's eyebrows slightly rose.

「It is similar to bubble-berry..... that sounds wonderful.」(Brunch: Certainly, if it has the same effects as bubble-berry, that would be amazing..... I can see why Wujek wrote a letter of introductions.)

Although she was considerably surprised, her facial expression didn't alter much. No matter how great her poker face may be, it is no match for Haruto's blessing.

「One of the ingredients for soap is olive oil; therefore, I would like a contract dealing with olive oil.」(Haruto)

Haruto frankly states his business.

「Alright. Let's form a contract. There is olive oil from rank "A" to "D", which kind do you need?」(Brunch: As D-rank is used for food, for it to have the same effect as bubble-berry, it perhaps uses A-rank olive oil?)

「D-rank will be sufficient.」(Haruto)

And thus, Haruto formed a contract with Brunch. In the beginning, 170 barrels of olive oil will be purchased in 3 months time. Later, the quantity will be determined afterward.

「I have money so I can pay it now, but I prefer to have a deferred payment if possible.」(Haruto)

After considering things, Haruto would rather pay later as it would be better to have more cash on hand.

With a smile on their face, Haruto and Brunch finished shaking hands.



「Well now, that worked out splendidly. I had thought that perhaps showing Wujek's letter of introduction would turn out nastier.」(Lora)

「You're right. Perhaps, she didn't see me as one of Wujek's associates.」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora returned to their shop and drank tea. As their opponent was a veteran merchant, it left him feeling quite tired. Perhaps it was from using his blessing, but Haruto was exhausted. Although, Lora who had stood behind him during that time, she didn't appear tired at all.

「Ah, I'm sleepy. I want to hurry up and eat so I can go to sleep. Oh, why can't it be dark.」(Haruto)

Haruto stares out the window and sees the red evening sun glowing.

As he gazed at the sunset, Haruto almost dozed off.

「Excuse me!! Is Haruto Asuma-sama home?」(???)

He hears a loud voice coming from the front entrance.

「Who could it be calling for me at this time of day!」(Haruto)

Being annoyed that they had disturbed his sleep, Haruto ordered Lora to refuse the person at the door. While showing a slightly wry smile, she went to answer the door.

「Hello, who is it?」(Lora)

When Lora opened the door, she saw a tall man with a handsome face, who is wearing glasses.

「Sorry but, my master is absence. Please allow me to receive your message today. Now then, what is your business?」(Lora)

When Lora looked up at the man, he showed a wry smile.

「I pretty sure I saw him returning. Certainly, it is my bad for coming here at this time without an appointment; perhaps, are you trying to turn me away? Ah, excuse me! I forgot to introduce myself. I am Adonis Wulfstan. I deal in magic tools. I ask that you bring me Asuma-sama?」(Adonis)

This man who shows a sweet smile is..... “Adonis Wulfstan, it can't be”, Lora

thought. Her eyes widened. Who would have thought that the Adonis Wulfstan would come looking for them?

「Pardon me, my master was currently resting..... it was at my own discretion; I'll go call my master right away.」 (Lora)

Lora goes to retrieve Haruto who is inside the shop.

「Haruto-san!!」 (Lora)

「Huh? Have you turned them away?」 (Haruto)

「Shhh! The visitor is Adonis Wulfstan. Please, go see him at once. It is my fault for trying to turn him away at the door!」 (Lora)

Upon hearing this, Haruto's eyes widened.

「The Adonis from one of the three large factions? Why would he come here?」 (Haruto)

「I don't know! Just hurry and go.」 (Lora)

Having his drowsiness blown away, Haruto heads from the entrance.

「Are you perhaps, Adonis Wulfstan-san?」 (Haruto)

Having previously tried to expel this person, Haruto was being slightly untactful.

「Yes, that is correct. You are Haruto Asuma, I presume.」 (Adonis: This is the person..... he appears to be unexpecting average. Well, I won't know until I see that soap thing.)

It seems that this person knows about the soap. At any rate, the tone in this person's thoughts is different.

「Yes, I am. For now, please come in; although, there isn't much inside.」 (Haruto)

Haruto leads the person to the parlor room.

「Now, what is your business with me?」 (Haruto)

They sit down in a chair and then, Haruto asked what Adonis needed from him. A friendly smile appears on Adonis' face.

「You misunderstand, I just came to see the person that Wujek Malthus had invested in. I had to see you with my own eyes. Here, this is a gift to congratulated us becoming acquainted.」 (Adonis: I have to see for myself what that miser would invest in.)

Adonis handed Haruto an unknown device.

「This is an alarm. When it detects an intruder, it will make a loud sound. It is rather simple to use, you can place it at the center of the building.」 (Adonis: In truth, it was developed to secure pots but I'm sure it could be used this way too.)

Certainly, having an alarm system would bring Haruto peace of mind. He graciously thanked the man.

「For this..... thank you very much. How can I thank you in return, oh, please take this. It's soap. I would appreciate it if you advertised it as well.」 (Haruto)

Haruto handed the man soap. Adonis grins and smiles.

「Thank you very much for giving me this.」 (Adonis: This is soap..... I have heard it has the same effect as bubble-berry but I wonder if that is true? Well, I have completed my task today and have met up with the guy. I guess I'll be heading home.)

「Well now, look at the time, it is late and I should be going. If you need any magic tools, please keep the Wulfstan company in mind.」 (Adonis)

After saying this, Adonis when home.

「Ah, I'm tired. Why is it that I had to meet with 2 renown people today.」 (Haruto)

「Yeah. I was terrified when I tried to turn him away at the door. But, is it not a good thing? Haruto-san, word about you is getting around.」 (Lora)
Lora looked pleased. Certainly, it is a good chance to advertise if a famous person were to endorse the product.

「Well yeah, but it is true that I'm exhausted. This is the first time I had to use my blessing this often. I won't be having my meal..... I'm going to bed.」 (Haruto)

Haruto looks out the window and sees a beautiful full moon.

「Eh! What about a bath? Looks like it will rain tomorrow.....」 (Lora)

And thus, this hectic day came to a close.

====

Income: 0

Expense: 0

Debt: 5 Million

Current Balance: 3.83 Million

(Actual) Assets: -1.17 Million

Other Assets:

16 Slaves

- [ToC](#) -

Chapter 12: Two Merchants

異世界商壳記
Another Worlds Business Chronicles

第12話 2人の商人
Chapter 12 – Two Merchants

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「We will now commence the purge of our enemy!!」 (Haruto)

With a serious expression, Haruto issued this command to Lora. In their hands, they each are holding a broom. This broom is a weapon that will be used against the hidden enemy lurking in the storehouse (warehouse).

「The enemy's war potential is unknown. There are probably at least 30 of them so expect a strong resistance. However, do not falter! It is either us or them!」 (Haruto)

「Haruto-san.....」 (Lora)

「What is it?」 (Haruto)

「They are only cockroaches.」 (Lora)

「Dare not speak their name!」 (Haruto)

Why is it that the two of them are going about exterminating cockroaches? Because it is necessary in order for them to clean up the storehouse. Since the seaweed ash will be delivered to them in a week's time, they must have the storehouse cleaned. However, many roaches are lurking about in the storehouse. That is why Haruto and Lora have decided to exterminate the cockroaches.

「Do you dislike them? I'm okay with them because I used to live in the back alley.」 (Lora)

「Ahh, in the past one of them leaped at me and it..... in my mouth.....」(Haruto)
Haruto suppresses his urge to think about it. Certainly, it has become a trauma for him.

「Now that I think about it, my compulsion from cleanliness might be the result of the fear I have for them.」(Haruto)

Hearing him speak so heartily about it, Lora gave a suitable response.

「I understand. Haruto-san, please don't push yourself. It will be troublesome if you end up vomiting so leave the roach..... those critters to me.」(Lora)

「I'll be counting on you.」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora entered the storehouse together.



The storehouse (battlefield) is dim and dusty. Haruto reached from the light switch but Lora stopped him.

「You should turn on the light when you're ready.」(Lora)

「Understood.」(Haruto)

The two nervously prepared themselves for when the roaches will be revealed.

After a few minutes passed, the two advanced into the storehouse (battlefield). What awaited them inside was the creeping noise belonging to insects. A few minutes later, their nervousness was lifted as the tension Haruto felt was interrupted; at that time, a black shadowy figure passes by Lora's line-of-sight. Lora doesn't miss this chance, she brings down the boom onto it. The cockroach senses that its life is in peril and increases its speed. The speed of the boom that Lora swung down accelerated as it approached the floor. As a result.....

A whacking sound is heard. The roach is caught by Lora's broom; however, it had twisted its body on impact, resulting in the roach's body being wedged in the broom's brush end. Somehow, the cockroach was able to escape from the broom by spreading its wings but as it was flying away, the roach was pushed upwards from below by the broom. Lora had already predicted the cockroach's escape route. The roach that had been pushed upwards ended up clinging onto the broom but that judgment was a mistake. Lora smiles. The broom is rotated

and then is swung against the floor before the roach that had clung to the broom could escape. It is exterminated. This all happened in a span of 5 seconds. The matter of life and death had been decided in an instant.

「Phew, that worked out. I would never have expected it to avoid my attack by turning its body.」(Lora)

Lora looked at the cockroach's plump corpse. Chances are, it had been feeding on the dust in the storehouse.

「Then, while we are on a roll, shall we continue.」(Lora)

Lora cheerfully said to Haruto. Although, despite having gotten rid of that roach, Haruto's still appeared tense.

「I stepped on one.....」(Haruto)

It seems Haruto had stepped on a cockroach. Death had visited him by mere chance.

As such, they continue to exterminate the cockroaches. Lora's broom and Haruto's shoe became wet with blood (bug goo).

「Why must this happen to me?」(Haruto)

Haruto was on the verge of tears. The bottom of his shoes is covered in roach goo. This left him experiencing an indescribable feeling.

After 2 hours, there was a small pile containing 15 cockroach corpses. With a calm expression, Lora tossed the roaches away by the roadside.

Now that the cockroaches had been removed, they proceeded to clean until lunch time.



「We are finally done!! Now this place can be used as a storehouse. All that is left is for us to secure olive oil. Do you know of a good place where we can stock up on olive oil?」(Haruto)

「The Ainsworth company deals in agricultural produces. If I'm not mistake, their head office is a short walk from here.」(Lora)

「Then, should we head there now?」(Haruto)

Upon Haruto's suggestion, Lora made a slightly clouded expression.

「I think you should go see Wujek first. The Ainsworth company's top brass,

Brunch·Ainsworth (ブランチ・エインズワ) is Wujek-san's political rival.」(Lora)
Haruto recalls the details about Clarice's self-government. It seems Wujek has many enemies.

「Phew, do you see why I was conflicted?」(Lora)

When doing business, one should at the very least have an understanding of the relationship among fellow merchants. "I should hear what this is about", Haruto thought.

「I don't know the full details but..... Wujek-san is the head of the Kingdom's warring faction while Brunch·Ainsworth is the head of the Empire's armistice faction. In terms of policy, their opinion is a complete 180-degree difference.」(Lora)

Although she claims to not know the detail, there sure is a lot of information and Lora began to use technical terminology. Haruto wasn't able to understand what the Kingdom's warring faction was nor what the Empire's armistice faction was. While he has heard of the Kingdom, he has never heard of the Empire.

「I don't really get it but, Wujek supports the Kingdom's plan to keep fighting while Brunch supports the Empire's plan to stop fighting, correct? First of all, I don't know what the Empire is, can you start from the beginning?」(Haruto)
When she heard Haruto say this, Lora's eyes widened.

「You don't know about the Empire? Oh yeah, you're from another world. It is not surprising. Alright then. I'll tell you about this world's international situation from the beginning」(Lora)



「The Empire is a superpower that borders the Kingdom and the City-State Union. In their golden age, they ruled the whole area from the west to the entire mountain range.」(Lora)

「In other words, the City-State Union and the Kingdom used to be a part of the Empire?」(Haruto)

Lora replies to Haruto's question by nodding.

「That is correct. The Empire began to suffer from internal corruption and their national influence started to decline. 200 hundred years ago, the Germanians (ゲルマニス) rebelled against the Empire and established their Kingdom. The

founding of the Kingdom greatly reduced the Empire's influence in the Kirishia (キリシア) region; as a result, the City-State Union became independent. Are you with me so far?」(Lora)

Haruto confirmed to Lora by nodding. Although it was a simplified explanation, there was no need to go into detail so that was good enough.

「The two countries are hostile towards one another. After the Kingdom had gained independents, the two have gone to war 4 times. The City-State Union's policy is to stay neutral; as such, there is an unconditional rule that states that we should not be too intimately involve with either country.」(Lora)

「I see. The City-State Union isn't a single entity. Is Clarice neutral?」(Haruto)
When she heard Haruto's question, Lora showed a slightly troubled expression.

「That is right..... we are more or less neutral. Nevertheless, within Clarice, there are 3 rival factions. The 1st faction is lead by Wujek-san; they are in favor of the Kingdom. The 2nd faction is lead by Brunch・Ainsworth; they are in favor of the Empire. The 3rd faction is lead by Adonis・Wulfstan (アドニス・ウルフスタン); they are in favor of a natural ceasefire between the two countries.」(Lora)

Again, another person's name emerged, causing Haruto to frown. In truth, memorizing all their names is a pain but it is an essential knowledge that a merchant must learn.

「As the Kingdom's troops advance, they would loot and plunder the Empire's villages and towns. The people that are caught are then sold as slaves to the City-State Union. It just happens that, Wujek-san buys a lot of those slaves. In addition, he has lent quite a fortune to the Kingdom's aristocrats; therefore, Wujek wants them to continue warring and continue winning.」(Lora)
As expected, Wujek is quite a bad person; however, it is only natural for a merchant to devote themselves to making a profit.

「Next, about Brunch・Ainsworth; she earns money by selling wine to the east. If the war continues, she fears that the Empire would lose. And, as most of the fine wine are domestic products of the Empire, Brunch-san fears that the price for obtaining wine will drastically increase if that were to happen. Lastly, Adonis・Wulfstan, the head of the natural ceasefire faction, he produces magic tools and sells them. As the war prolongs, magic stones, the fuel for magic tools will

continue to rise. Nowadays, because of the war, the price for magic stones has gone up and the demand for magic tools has gone down, causing his profits to decrease. Do you understand the premise so far?」(Lora)

Lora looks to confirm Haruto's expression. Haruto nods.

「I get the general idea, thank you. Then, we should go see what Wujek has to say before we meet with Brunch-san. In truth, our actions shouldn't be restricted by him but since I'm indebted to him, it is a matter of courtesy. This could be a chance for us to get along.」(Haruto)

And thus, their plans for the afternoon was decided.



「For some reason, I feel nervous.....」(Lora)

「Why would you be; all you have to do is stand behind me and smile. What is there to be nervous about?」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora are in Ainsworth's reception room. They normally would be turned away without having an appointment; however, with Wujek's letter of introduction, how they were treated changed.

By the way, Wujek had made a wry smile and he did not seem pleased with the matter.

「I thought that perhaps the letter of introducing from Wujek-san was a fake, but this does resemble his handwriting.」(???)

「Really? Is that so, it seems as if you didn't mind being tricked.」(Haruto)

This conversation occurred nearly 1 hour after they were kept waiting. A woman, who appeared to be about 40 years old, entered the room. She wasn't wearing any make-up. Being flustered, Haruto stood up and introduced himself.

「Good evening. My name is Haruto Asuma. I am starting a business in Clarice. I came with Wujek-san's letter of introductions.」(Haruto)

Lora doesn't introduce herself. It is an unspoken rule that a slave should not give their name unless asked.

「I see, I am Brunch·Ainsworth. What is your business with me?」(Brunch: So, this is the person Malthus was talking about in the letter..... Malthus isn't the type of person to carelessly give out introductions. Appearance wise, this person

looks average.)

She is neither wary nor repulsed by Haruto. Being in the clear, Haruto breathed out a sigh of relief.

「For now, this is the product I plan to market.」(Haruto)

Haruto hands over the soap that he had brought. Brunch had a mystified expression on her face as she stared at the produce.

「This is soap. It has the same effect as bubble-berry. The price is 300 Doraria.」(Haruto)

Upon hearing him say this, Brunch's eyebrows slightly rose.

「It is similar to bubble-berry..... that sounds wonderful.」(Brunch: Certainly, if it has the same effects as bubble-berry, that would be amazing..... I can see why Wujek wrote a letter of introductions.)

Although she was considerably surprised, her facial expression didn't alter much. No matter how great her poker face may be, it is no match for Haruto's blessing.

「One of the ingredients for soap is olive oil; therefore, I would like a contract dealing with olive oil.」(Haruto)

Haruto frankly states his business.

「Alright. Let's form a contract. There is olive oil from rank "A" to "D", which kind do you need?」(Brunch: As D-rank is used for food, for it to have the same effect as bubble-berry, it perhaps uses A-rank olive oil?)

「D-rank will be sufficient.」(Haruto)

And thus, Haruto formed a contract with Brunch. In the beginning, 170 barrels of olive oil will be purchased in 3 months time. Later, the quantity will be determined afterward.

「I have money so I can pay it now, but I prefer to have a deferred payment if possible.」(Haruto)

After considering things, Haruto would rather pay later as it would be better to have more cash on hand.

With a smile on their face, Haruto and Brunch finished shaking hands.



「Well now, that worked out splendidly. I had thought that perhaps showing Wujek's letter of introduction would turn out nastier.」(Lora)

「You're right. Perhaps, she didn't see me as one of Wujek's associates.」(Haruto)

Haruto and Lora returned to their shop and drank tea. As their opponent was a veteran merchant, it left him feeling quite tired. Perhaps it was from using his blessing, but Haruto was exhausted. Although, Lora who had stood behind him during that time, she didn't appear tired at all.

「Ah, I'm sleepy. I want to hurry up and eat so I can go to sleep. Oh, why can't it be dark.」(Haruto)

Haruto stares out the window and sees the red evening sun glowing.

As he gazed at the sunset, Haruto almost dozed off.

「Excuse me!! Is Haruto Asuma-sama home?」(???)

He hears a loud voice coming from the front entrance.

「Who could it be calling for me at this time of day!」(Haruto)

Being annoyed that they had disturbed his sleep, Haruto ordered Lora to refuse the person at the door. While showing a slightly wry smile, she went to answer the door.

「Hello, who is it?」(Lora)

When Lora opened the door, she saw a tall man with a handsome face, who is wearing glasses.

「Sorry but, my master is absence. Please allow me to receive your message today. Now then, what is your business?」(Lora)

When Lora looked up at the man, he showed a wry smile.

「I pretty sure I saw him returning. Certainly, it is my bad for coming here at this time without an appointment; perhaps, are you trying to turn me away? Ah, excuse me! I forgot to introduce myself. I am Adonis Wulfstan. I deal in magic tools. I ask that you bring me Asuma-sama?」(Adonis)

This man who shows a sweet smile is..... “Adonis Wulfstan, it can't be”, Lora

thought. Her eyes widened. Who would have thought that the Adonis Wulfstan would come looking for them?

「Pardon me, my master was currently resting..... it was at my own discretion; I'll go call my master right away.」 (Lora)

Lora goes to retrieve Haruto who is inside the shop.

「Haruto-san!!」 (Lora)

「Huh? Have you turned them away?」 (Haruto)

「Shhh! The visitor is Adonis Wulfstan. Please, go see him at once. It is my fault for trying to turn him away at the door!」 (Lora)

Upon hearing this, Haruto's eyes widened.

「The Adonis from one of the three large factions? Why would he come here?」 (Haruto)

「I don't know! Just hurry and go.」 (Lora)

Having his drowsiness blown away, Haruto heads from the entrance.

「Are you perhaps, Adonis Wulfstan-san?」 (Haruto)

Having previously tried to expel this person, Haruto was being slightly untactful.

「Yes, that is correct. You are Haruto Asuma, I presume.」 (Adonis: This is the person..... he appears to be unexpecting average. Well, I won't know until I see that soap thing.)

It seems that this person knows about the soap. At any rate, the tone in this person's thoughts is different.

「Yes, I am. For now, please come in; although, there isn't much inside.」 (Haruto)

Haruto leads the person to the parlor room.

「Now, what is your business with me?」 (Haruto)

They sit down in a chair and then, Haruto asked what Adonis needed from him. A friendly smile appears on Adonis' face.

「You misunderstand, I just came to see the person that Wujek Malthus had invested in. I had to see you with my own eyes. Here, this is a gift to congratulated us becoming acquainted.」 (Adonis: I have to see for myself what that miser would invest in.)

Adonis handed Haruto an unknown device.

「This is an alarm. When it detects an intruder, it will make a loud sound. It is rather simple to use, you can place it at the center of the building.」 (Adonis: In truth, it was developed to secure pots but I'm sure it could be used this way too.)

Certainly, having an alarm system would bring Haruto peace of mind. He graciously thanked the man.

「For this..... thank you very much. How can I thank you in return, oh, please take this. It's soap. I would appreciate it if you advertised it as well.」 (Haruto)

Haruto handed the man soap. Adonis grins and smiles.

「Thank you very much for giving me this.」 (Adonis: This is soap..... I have heard it has the same effect as bubble-berry but I wonder if that is true? Well, I have completed my task today and have met up with the guy. I guess I'll be heading home.)

「Well now, look at the time, it is late and I should be going. If you need any magic tools, please keep the Wulfstan company in mind.」 (Adonis)

After saying this, Adonis when home.

「Ah, I'm tired. Why is it that I had to meet with 2 renown people today.」 (Haruto)

「Yeah. I was terrified when I tried to turn him away at the door. But, is it not a good thing? Haruto-san, word about you is getting around.」 (Lora)
Lora looked pleased. Certainly, it is a good chance to advertise if a famous person were to endorse the product.

「Well yeah, but it is true that I'm exhausted. This is the first time I had to use my blessing this often. I won't be having my meal..... I'm going to bed.」 (Haruto)

Haruto looks out the window and sees a beautiful full moon.

「Eh! What about a bath? Looks like it will rain tomorrow.....」 (Lora)

And thus, this hectic day came to a close.

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